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THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 1996 WEATHER: Cold and windy (BR4SP) 40p

Today: School league tables full 12-page guide inside
Tomorrow: Education+ with 16 pages of appointments

The Tabloid
Bridget Jones: revenge is sweet

Darkness at the end of the tunnel



On the wrong track: The sign above the M20 near the turn-off for the Channel Tunnel yesterday. All 34 people aboard a train from Calais to Folkestone were injured when fire broke out

Christian Wolmar
Mary Dejevsky
James Cusick and
Michael Harrison

The Channel Tunnel has lost its innocence and may well have lost any hope of financial survival. Promoted as the safest form of travel between Britain and Europe, it suffered the fire that everyone feared, a conflagration which although claiming no lives, has dimmed hopes of light ever emerging at the end of the Channel tunnel's short but troubled existence.

Monday night's fire may not have caused any deaths, but it was a very serious event which will prevent any trains using the tunnel at all until late today at the earliest and will close one of the two main train tunnels for several weeks, causing se-

vere disruption to both Le Shuttle and Eurostar services. All 34 passengers suffered from the effects of smoke inhalation and several lorry drivers described how they choked in the smoke and were convinced that they were going to die.

On the face of it, the procedures

worked well. While all 34 passengers and crew suffered from the effects of smoke inhalation, none was seriously hurt and they were evacuated within 70 minutes, inside the 90-minute target set by the safety commission. However, it is unclear why the train was stopped rather than the normal procedure followed of continuing to the terminal. Eurotunnel suggested this was done deliberately after discussion between the *chef de train* and the control centre in Folkestone, but Bill Dix, the managing director of Eurotunnel, refused to elaborate on why the train had stopped. It is also not known why the second-best option - to disconnect the freight wagons, and leave just the locomotive and the chub car with all the passengers - was not taken.

There are three separate inquiries

Inside
It was like a tomb: I thought I'd never get out alive.
Fear of the future.
The strange story of the fire story.
Travel chaos.
Pages 2 and 3

underway into the causes of the fire and the safety implications for the future running of the tunnel. Inside the tunnel, there is a sad scene of damage which Eurotunnel's

bosses must have hoped they would never see. The fire brought down lumps of concrete from the ceiling, destroyed a portion of the line buckling the rails and ruined trackside equipment, particularly the communications gear which will be very difficult to re-establish. Fifteen lorries were destroyed and five wagons badly damaged. However, engineering experts say that the structure itself is very robust and unlikely to have been damaged. The financial damage is going to be very serious. The Eurotunnel president, Patrick Ponsolle, conceded that while insurers will pay for most of the physical damage, the loss of public confidence could take longer to restore, however well the safety procedures worked. "This was a serious incident but it has enabled us to show the quality of our safety procedures.

We believe that it is through this incident that our number one priority, the safety of passengers, has been fully demonstrated. While no one died, it will have reinforced people's often irrational fears of the tunnel and many may choose the ferries as a result. In the short term, there is the possibility that the fire will undermine the current negotiations by Eurotunnel to reschedule the project's £8.7bn debt, especially as the banks may feel that future revenue will suffer so badly that efforts to save the company are futile. Eurotunnel was already expecting to lose £700m this year and further losses can be expected as optimistic predictions of revenues of £490m will be reduced. The stock market reacted predictably, marking down Eurotunnel while P&O shares prospered.

An inquiry by the intergovernmental commission has been launched and Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, promised in Parliament yesterday that its findings would be made public. Eurotunnel admits things will never be the same again. John Noulton, public affairs director, said: "Inquiries like this usually lead to changes." And there is no doubt that these will cost money, placing further stress on the near-bankrupt company. Doubts were already raised yesterday in Parliament by Gwyneth Dunwoody, a Labour member of the Commons transport committee, over the safety of the freight shuttles which have lattice work sides open to the air. If Eurotunnel were ordered to replace them following the inquiry, it would undoubtedly cause Eurotunnel's bankruptcy.

Christian who was flogged for falling in love with a Muslim

By Robert Fisk

Beirut - Grotesque. Unprecedented. Bizarre. Though true, the journalists' adjectives cannot quite define the latest excess of a Muslim court. Yet Mona Ghalib's voice was determined down the phone line from her exile in the United States. What else would you expect from a Muslim woman, whose Lebanese Christian husband is waiting to be flogged after legal sentencing in the Gulf for the "offence" of marrying her? "When I sleep - I sleep - all I see is the sight of my husband being whipped," Mrs Ghalib told me yesterday.



Image of Islam: A woman wears the traditional chador

fabulously wealthy Emirates ruler - for a pardon for her husband has gone unanswered. "When I ask the Emirates embassy here for help, all they could offer was a one-way ticket back to the Emirates. If I took that, I'd go back and receive the death penalty." Under Islamic Sharia law, a non-Muslim man may not marry a Muslim woman unless he converts to Islam - something Mr Ghalib has reportedly offered to do in prison - but Mrs Ghalib is in little doubt as to what lies behind this most disgraceful of judgements. "I'm from Yemen and wasn't born in the Emirates where they wouldn't dare touch the big families. The purpose of punishing my husband for marrying me is to tell all the other Muslim women in the Emirates 'if you have it in mind to marry a Christian, we don't want you to have the courage or the guts to do it'."

Golden days back for City high-rollers

Peter Rodgers
Financial Editor

The fat cats of the utilities have been left in the shade by immense rewards for dealers in the City, where bonuses and profit sharing on the Stock Exchange soared almost £100m to a record £315m in the year to June. The increase, announced by the Exchange yesterday, was on the back of a huge rise in profits among 250 member firms - to £719m - after a spectacular boom year in the stock market.

For the City as a whole, the lucrative rewards of working on the Exchange are believed to be merely the tip of a far larger iceberg. Many hundreds of millions more in bonuses are likely to be paid out across the Square Mile this year. There is evidence of equally high bonuses for the people who manage pension and insurance funds and unit trusts, for bankers such as corporate financiers who advise on takeovers, and for many other staff. These include foreign exchange dealers and market makers who trade gilt-edged stock. Estate agents believe that the enormous increase in City bonuses has been one of the factors fuelling a boom in the property market over the past year in some of London's more sought after areas. This happened during the housing boom of the late 1980s, which coincided with the last great stock market bonanza. The earnings escalation across the City has also been given new impetus during 1996 by the unprecedented movement of high-flyers who switch firms to earn more money. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the investment bank which is owned by Deutsche Bank of Germany, is thought to be one of the most aggressive, offering pay packets of several million pounds to star dealers and analysts. Sometimes, whole teams are poached from other firms. The race to recruit the top people has led some firms to offer guaranteed bonuses to new staff, regardless of performance in their first few years. But there has been rising anxiety at the Bank of England and among regulators in charge of policing the City, such as the Securities and Investments Board. Sir Andrew Large, chairman of SIB, warned recently that badly thought out bonus schemes can be dangerous because they encourage City people to take too many risks with other people's money in order to boost their own earnings. Bankers at Barings were lining up for large bonuses just days before the bank collapsed as a result of the activities of Nick Leeson in Singapore. Full story, page 24

QUICKLY

New knife powers
Sweeping new police powers to stop and search suspects, and legislation to restrict the promotion of Rambo-style knives were proposed by the government. They were condemned as Draconian by civil liberties groups. Page 8

Troops on hold
The British and US governments changed their minds about sending ground forces to Zaire, throwing the size, scope, and even the existence of the proposed international relief into confusion. Other countries are still prepared to go ahead, but are rethinking. Page 18

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news

'It was like a tomb down there:

Investigation will focus on decision to halt train and lead victims through tunnel

Christian Wolmar

The investigation underway into the Channel Tunnel fire will concentrate on whether all safety procedures were followed and in particular try to discover why the train was halted.

Safety rules – different for Eurostar and tourist shuttles because they are enclosed and drivers travel with their cars – outline three alternatives for freight shuttle trains.

The first is for the train to continue as fast as possible to an exit. If the fire is too strong, then normal procedure would be for the chief de train to dis-

connect the locomotive and the club car – where lorry drivers rest – from the remainder of the train and head off fast down the track. That would leave emergency teams, who travel down the smaller service tunnel, to deal with the fire.

The third alternative, which happened on Monday night, is for the train to stop with the club car next to one of the entrances into the service tunnel. These are located at intervals of 375 metres.

Eurotunnel is confident that it has devised set procedures for ensuring that fires can be dealt with easily and an incident such as Monday's was not unexpected. John Noulton, the com-

pany's public affairs director, said that initially it was thought there would be a fire once every nine years, but "nowadays, vehicles are much more complex and are at greater risk of starting to burn than old bangers were twenty years ago".

However, the inquiry will have to look at why neither of the first two safety options were taken and why choking lorry drivers had to be evacuated through the tunnel.

The tunnel was designed to be safer than other channel crossings and the risks are said to be the same as for any other rail journey. In a 300-page safety document, Eurotunnel sets out the chance of being

killed on a shuttle train as 5.6 per 100 million transits, about 25 times safer than on an aeroplane. An accident in which ten or more people are killed should not happen more than once in every 50 years, and one in which 100 or more people die every 1,100 years.

In some ways, the emphasis on safety has been responsible for the near-bankruptcy of Eurotunnel. As initial plans were being drawn up in the late Eighties, a succession of disasters – such as the Zeebrugge ferry sinking, and rail accidents at Clapham and King's Cross – heightened awareness of the safety risks surrounding a Channel tunnel.

Safety considerations were largely responsible for a railway being built, rather than Mrs Thatcher's dream of a 50-kilometre road tunnel.

But the safety requirements became increasingly onerous, an issue that is still the subject of a legal dispute between Eurotunnel and the British and French governments over the imposition of extra costs which sometimes seemed to cover minute risks.

Privately, though, Eurotunnel must be rather relieved that such onerous requirements were forced on the company, given that it has emerged from its first major incident with no deaths or serious injuries.

Design risks were known about

Michael Harrison

If the Channel Tunnel had an Achilles' heel then it was always going to be its fleet of freight shuttles. Although they have proved to be the workhorse of the system, transporting some 1,500 lorries a day between Folkestone and Calais, a question mark has always hung over their safety because of the semi-open design.

There are usually 28 wagons to each freight shuttle.

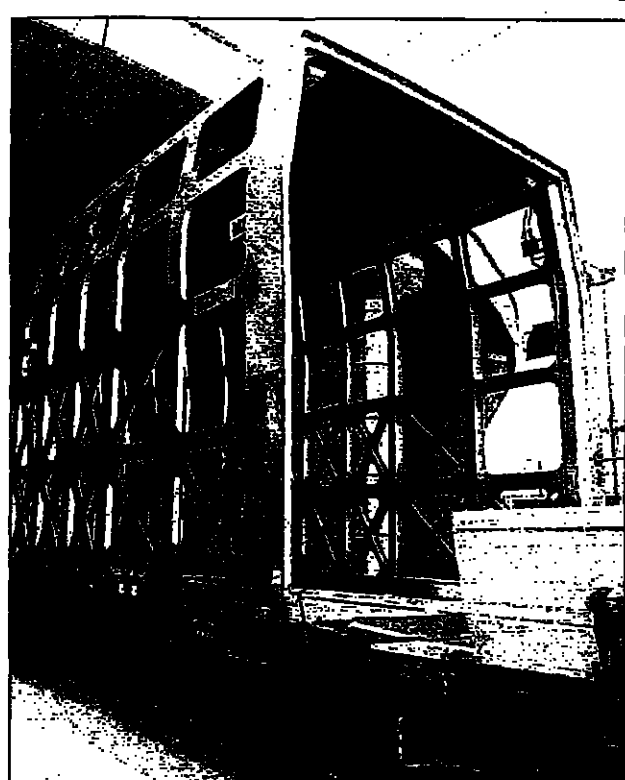
The original intention was to design the individual wagons so that they were fully enclosed just as the passenger shuttles are. Drivers would then be able to remain in their cabs for the 35-minute journey and drive off immediately at the other end.

The Anglo-French Inter-Governmental Safety Authority objected, however, on safety grounds. It insisted that drivers travel instead in a separate amenity carriage and asked Eurotunnel to modify its design.

Eurotunnel soon discovered that there were pressing reasons other than safety for not going ahead with a closed carriage design – weight, cost and operational efficiency.

The company discovered that, together with the weight of the lorries themselves, a closed wagon design would place more strain on the shuttles than they could bear.

It also discovered that the cost would be excessive. When



Open-sided freight car of the type carrying the lorry that caught fire. The structure has raised questions about fire risk

construction of the tunnel began in autumn 1987, the cost of the entire fleet of freight and passenger shuttles was put at £252m. Within three years that figure had ballooned to £603m.

By that time Eurotunnel had abandoned the original design and opted for the semi-open design based on the Alpine rail tunnels where passengers, cars and freight have been carried since the 1960s without incident.

The change in tack prompted immediate concern. The Kent fire brigade warned of the dangers of fire being able to spread rapidly from one freight wagon to another. The Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs voiced concern.

Eurotunnel pressed ahead, however, with its design. Fire and safety tests were carried out at two locations – in Italy where the manufacturer of the wagons, Fiat Breda, has its own test-bed,

and in Hammerfest in northern Norway where one complete freight shuttle was fire-tested in a specially built tunnel.

Finally in October, 1993, the Inter-Governmental Safety Authority announced that it had no objections to the semi-open shuttle design.

By that time, however, Eurotunnel had already placed advance orders for the fleet, a move that angered MPs on the home affairs committee.

Eurotunnel is now buying a further 16 freight shuttle wagons and two entire freight shuttles. This time the order has been placed with a Belgian manufacturer, Arbel, because, Eurotunnel says, its bid was a third lower than the price charged by Fiat Breda. The eventual price will depend, however, on whether Eurotunnel is forced to re-design its entire fleet of freight shuttles.

Fear the key to future of company

Michael Harrison

Two big financial worries now face Eurotunnel – does the fire threaten attempts to reschedule the project's £5.7bn debt mountain and how badly will it affect future revenues?

The fate of the tunnel operator hangs on the answer to the first. The future of the tunnel itself depends on the second.

To take revenues first, it is clear that there will be a marked impact in the short term, with capacity temporarily cut to a third of normal levels. Eurotunnel had been forecasting revenues of £450m this year and stock market analysts had been even more bullish, pencilling in £490m.

With one of the two running tunnels likely to be out of action for six to eight weeks, which will include the important Christmas period, and the remaining service subject to limitations, revenues will clearly suffer.

Eurotunnel was already expected to lose £700m this year. The longer-term impact is harder to gauge since it will depend crucially on the travelling public's sentiment.

Images of smouldering trains in undersea tunnels and accounts of choking travellers emerging from dense smoke and "blow-torch like heat" resonate. All Eurotunnel's soothing words may not be enough.

The financial community, however, taken a remarkably sanguine view of the threat to the tunnel. "Frankly I don't regard the incident as a high priority," said one of Eurotunnel's senior bankers. "Sooner or later this was bound to happen but

ask yourself how many ferries caught fire last year. Knee-jerk politics seems to be the vogue at the moment and I expect there will be a degree of that, but as an informed observer I do not think there will be any impact."

Jeff Summers, an analyst with the debt-trading agency Klesh and Co, which has been one of Eurotunnel's severest critics, said: "For the long term, provided this is a single incident then I doubt whether it will change the habits of the travelling public at all. If it were otherwise nobody would fly in aeroplanes or take ferry crossings."

"In the short term, however, Eurotunnel could not have picked a worse moment. There is a difficult round of financial restructuring to complete. A lot of banks will take the view that this incident will lead to a lower revenues and high bottom-line losses and that will affect sentiment."

Under the financial restructuring Eurotunnel is proposing to give the banks a stake of between 45 and 61 per cent in the tunnel in exchange for their writing off or converting £4.7bn of the £5.7bn they are owed.

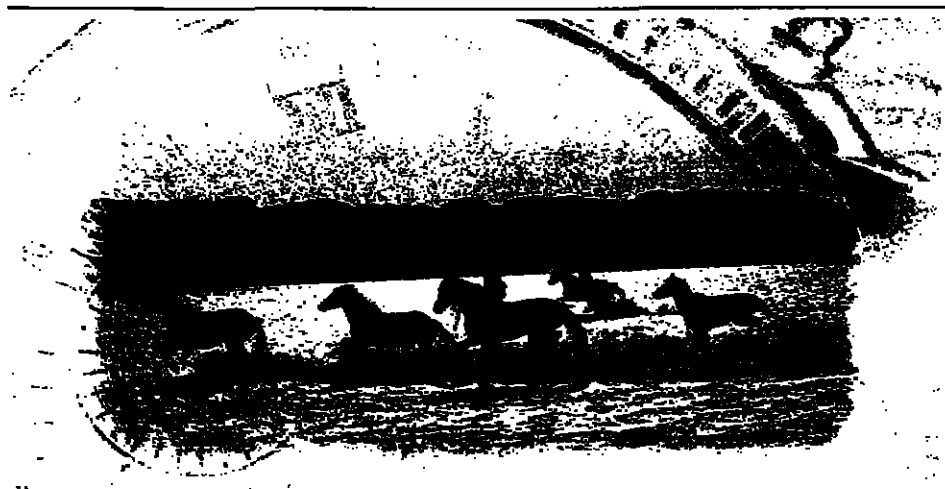
Mr Summers doubts whether the incident will be enough to stop bankers from voting the deal through in the new year. But he is concerned about what would happen if Eurotunnel were forced to redesign its fleet of freight shuttles. "If that happened it would reduce the number of lorries it could carry and greatly increase the loading times. At one extreme that could be very damaging."

Business Comment, page 25



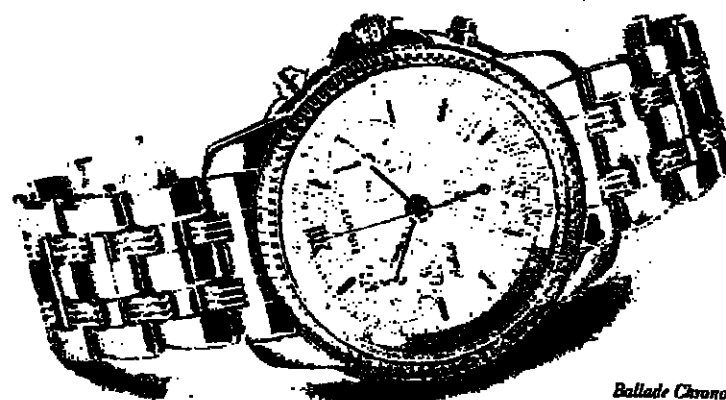
Train in vain: A traveller stares at the notice boards at London's Waterloo Station after all Eurostar services were cancelled

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid



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Dangerous to fly over Africa, pilots are told

Ian Burrell

Airline pilots warned yesterday of an impending air disaster because of a "critical deficiency" in safety standards in most of African air space.

Representatives for the world's air traffic controllers said last night they had called a meeting with the pilots and that airlines could soon be warned that it was no longer safe to fly over large areas of the continent.

A bulletin issued by the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA), which represents 100,000 pilots, warns that African air traffic information is often "inaccurate" and "unreliable". Pilots often have no contact with the ground and have to prevent mid-air collisions by issuing radio broadcasts to other pilots notifying them of their position and speed.

It claims that runways are covered in rubber tyre marks, rendering brake action ineffective. Airports are surrounded with high concentrations of birds, and non-existent security allows people, animals and vehicles on to runways.

The bulletin said there had been 57 safety scares, including air-misses, over Africa since August last year and that "giving the flying public and pilots the impression that they are flying through an area in which their flight is continuously regulated and safeguarded could not be further from the truth".

It added: "The lack of air traffic control coupled with a demand for more traffic in the region increases the risk on a daily basis, of a tragic accident or incident occurring."

The overthrow of apartheid in South Africa has led to a 300 per cent increase in air traffic from Europe. At the same time, other African countries have lifted bans which had prevented South African Airways flying in their air space.

Tony van Heerden, president of the Airline Pilots Association of South Africa, said Angola effectively had no air traffic control at all. "All it is is a billing service. They want to know your time of departure, aircraft registration number and destination and say 'we will send you the bill', he said.

Airlines must pay US\$1,000 (£600) for each flight over Angolan airspace. Angolan air traffic controllers have no telephone contact with their counterparts in neighbouring Botswana, and a similar lack of communication exists between neighbours Congo and Zaire.

Mr Van Heerden said there were also tremendous congestion problems over Chad and Algeria, where there is no radar, and pilots are told to make their own collision avoidance arrangements with other pilots. In Francophone Africa, pilots and air traffic controllers speak in French, in breach of international safety regulations, which require that they communicate in English.

IFALPA said it would be meeting pilots' representatives in London in January, when a joint warning could be issued to airlines saying that it was no longer safe to fly over Africa.

Proben Lauridsen, president of IFALPA, said: "Some of these criticisms are very valid indeed. The main problem is that all the money airlines are paying in route charges is not going to air traffic control but on road construction, industry or even arms deals."

Mr Lauridsen said the situation was so serious that airlines might have to soon re-route around the continent. "Unless something is done, we will all have to say to the airlines 'you must not fly through this area because safety is not what it should be', he said.

The warning does not apply to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Egypt, Western Sahara or Morocco.

significant shorts

More bombings feared after rebuff to IRA

A four-point peace plan has been carried to John Major by John Hume, the SDLP leader, from Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader.

But last night ministerial sources at Westminster said the conditions for a resumption of the IRA ceasefire were unacceptable, and it could herald a renewed bombing campaign in Britain.

"We would not have a country or a party behind us if we accepted their terms. It's completely out of the question," said one minister.

The attempts to bring about a breakthrough in the peace talks will be on the agenda today at a meeting between Irish and British ministers in Belfast.

Colin Brown

£1m legal bill for ex-prime minister

The former Irish prime minister Albert Reynolds faced a £1m legal costs bill, despite winning a libel action against the *Sunday Times*. A Dublin jury found in his favour but awarded him zero damages, and he had already refused a payment into court by paper.

'Wall of silence' over man who died in custody

A witness to the arrest of a man who died in police custody was chased away by a baton-wielding officer, an inquest heard yesterday. "Patrick" took a lot of convincing that it would be safe for him to describe what happened, the hearing into Wayne Douglas's death was told.

The jury at Southwark Crown Court, London, heard that police met a "wall of silence" in their hunt for witnesses to Douglas's arrest last December. His death sparked rioting throughout Britain.

The 25-year-old former postman, detained after a chase following a knife-point burglary, was said to have been hit on the wrist with a baton to make him drop a kitchen knife. PC James Page said Douglas repeatedly lunged at him and a colleague with the eight-inch blade. "I was terrified," he said. *Jojo Moyes*

Newsman 'sacked'

The deputy editor of the *Express*, Ian Monk, was asked to resign last night following the arrest of his wife for allegedly trying to sell stolen copies of the Allan Starkie biography *Fergie: Her Secret Life*.

Marianne Macdonald

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I thought I'd never get out alive'

Lorry drivers, clutching napkins to their faces, lay on the floor

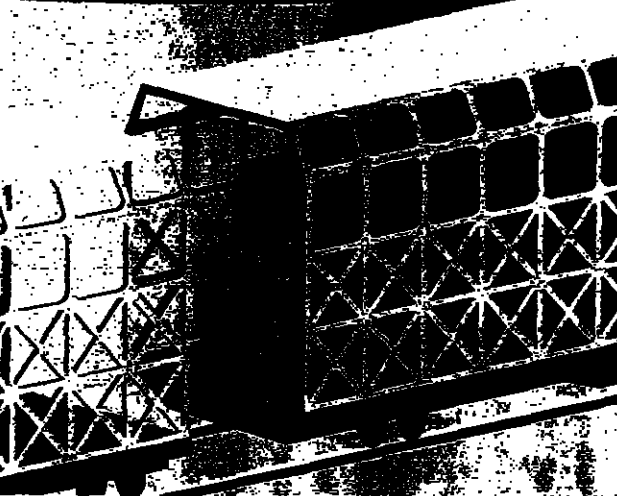
Christian Wolmar, Mary Dejevsky and James Cusick

The 8.45 freight shuttle from Calais on Monday night was full because earlier industrial action at the French end had caused delays. The strikers, angry at Eurotunnel's plans to cut jobs staged a two-hour sit-in, and resumed work only 45 minutes before the fire.

Eurotunnel was unable to explain exactly why there were 29 lorries, rather than the normal 28 on the train. A spokesperson said: "It may be that one of the wagons had two smaller vehicles on it." The 31 drivers and passengers - who included a seven-month pregnant girlfriend of one of the truckers - were all sitting in the Club Car behind the front locomotive. There were also two crew, the *chef de train* and the stewardess who serves the meals to the truck drivers. Behind them were 28 freight wagons, four loaders, and the second locomotive at the rear, a train of 700m in all.

Denis, a young French lorry driver who lives in Scotland, said that he noticed something amiss early in the journey. "About 200 or 300m into the tunnel, the Shuttle braked and almost stopped, then set off again." As a regular user of the tunnel, he said he found this unusual. But the first thing Emile Gerard, the *chef de train*, noticed wrong when he was alerted simultaneously by a visual and sound alarm, set off by sensors, and by a call from the British controller. Mr Gerard immediately followed the emergency procedures,

1 Fire begins just after 9pm Monday in a lorry in a northbound freight shuttle, a third of the way between Folkestone and Calais. The fire, in the 24th carriage, causes a 28-carriage train, produces black, toxic fumes from the polystyrene cargo on the lorry.



2 31 passengers, all in the front club coach, escape the poisonous fumes in the tunnel going through a cross-passage service tunnel between the north and southbound tunnels. With the three crew of the damaged train, they board a tourist shuttle stopped going southbound to Calais.

3 Rescuers help the injured through the service tunnel, accessed by firefighters from France and Britain in special 'lean-burn' diesel road vehicles. Injured are taken to hospitals in Calais and Lille.



Fire-fighting the news: the story of the story

Michael Streeter

As fire brigades from both sides of the Channel fought the tunnel blaze, the question was posed last night: did Eurotunnel news managers indulge in their own brand of fire-fighting?

There was concern that the company, which had privately dreaded such the damage a fire would have on the tunnel's image, might have tried to play down the impact of the fire - only to

be forced to reveal the full extent as more details began to emerge.

One BBC journalist said yesterday: "While there was no feeling of a deliberate attempt to manage the news, there was a sense of some complacency on their part."

"And I think the spin doctors were spinning in the initial period between 11pm and 3am."

Certainly the first comments from Eurotunnel press officers just after midnight yesterday to the British media were

stressing the minimal casualties and expressed a lack of information about the problems.

At 00.08 a spokesman said: "We do not know exactly what damage has been caused because the firefighters are still dealing with it."

Shortly afterwards a spokesman was already putting the on-going incident into historical context.

"This is the first fire in the tunnel since it opened in 1994," he said.

As the morning media covered the dra-

ma, the company was still emphasising the success of the safety procedures and praising rescue crews.

Alain Bertrand, director of Eurotunnel Operations at Calais, told BBC TV Breakfast News: "They have done a very good job indeed."

Eurotunnel press officer Allison Andrews denied any complacency and said the company has simply given the information as it came in and was confirmed. "I think we played it straight," she said.

cuers arrived. "It was very fraught," she said, "but the train manager managed to calm people down and stopped one person smashing a window."

French firefighters arrived along the service tunnel around 20 minutes after the train stopped and their British counterparts arrived about an hour later, having apparently only been alerted at 10pm.

The fire, thought to have started in a lorry carrying a load of polystyrene, was still smouldering seven hours later, having caused extensive damage to the tunnel including buckled rails. The fire was not brought under control until 6am.

Mr Gerard and Ms Matczak were taken by helicopter to Lille. Six people, including a female crew member, were taken to hospital in Calais; 26 others taken to a Boulogne hospital and all but five were discharged yesterday morning.

Chunnel survivors tell of terror in fum-filled carriage

Jojo Moyes

Lorry drivers told yesterday of their fear when they were trapped choking in a "tomb-like" fume-filled compartment while waiting to be rescued from the Channel tunnel fire.

They said they feared for their lives during the blaze that left 19 Britons needing hospital treatment for the effects of fumes and shock. In all, 34 people had to be brought to safety.

Jeff Waghorn, 32, from Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, said he and other drivers lay on the floor of the passenger compartment section of the train fearing they would not get out alive.

In a bid to avoid inhaling fumes, they held damp napkins to their noses for about 10-15 minutes.

"We were getting light-headed. Another five minutes, I think there

would have been a proper disaster," he said. "It felt like a lifetime when you're lying there looking at your life and wondering whether you're going to get out alive."

Another driver, Ian Edwards, 53, from Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, said: "Things got pretty desperate. Everybody was lying on the floor, moaning. One pregnant lady was getting pretty hysterical."

Fellow-driver Brian Shilton, 46, said: "It was like being in a tomb. We were really frightened. That was the closest I've ever come to death. I thought my time was up."

The man who had prevented total panic among the 31 passengers and three crew was chef de train Emile Gerard, 43. He made those on board soak paper serviettes and hold them over their faces as toxic



Victims: Sonia Matczak and train driver Emile Gerard prior to leaving hospital. Photograph: Reuters

Chunnel hoppers a stoic breed

Jojo Moyes

The fire caused serious disruption for travellers to and from the continent, with huge queues in the Eurostar terminal at Waterloo. Yet most passengers said the safety scare would not prevent them from using the service again.

All car shuttles through the tunnel were cancelled, and initial plans to transport passengers to ferry terminals on the coast were disrupted when bad weather meant that some ferry services did not run.

Dover was heavily congested as traffic was switched from the tunnel to the port and Eurotunnel chartered two planes to take passengers from Gatwick to Paris.

Anne Andrews, a French woman married to a Briton, had been booked to travel to Paris for an overnight stay, to return today.

"I've had to cancel the whole thing. I just tried to telephone my husband

but I can't even hear him because of the [platform cleaning] machinery. I've got two people expecting me in Paris. I don't even have any English money. I really don't know what to do," she said.

Also stranded was Chiharu Machida, a Japanese tourist, one of a group of four who had planned to travel over to Paris yesterday.

"We just got here and found out. We don't know what to do. If we were European we could transfer another way but we don't know how to make a transfer. We think we are best to wait here."

The mood among most waiting passengers was one of resignation.

Retired railwayman Geoffrey Unthank, from York, who was making a Eurostar journey for the first time, was unfazed.

"It's very unfortunate, but these things happen. It certainly hasn't put me off travelling on Eurostar," he said.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Investment Ideas

I WANT TO BUY MY YOUNG DAUGHTER a special Christmas present which will start her off well when she leaves school. Any ideas?

Mrs A Harris
CAMBRIDGE

HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Jenny Wilson
National Savings

"Yes, National Savings Children's Bonus Bonds are an ideal Christmas present for anyone under 16 - and can be held until the child becomes 21. They offer an excellent rate of 6.75% pa over the first 5 years with the added attraction of being completely tax-free. So if you have £25 to £1,000, spend it wisely on a Bond and watch it grow with your child. Then when she leaves school, your daughter will get the head start she needs."

To help ensure the gift is received before Christmas, your application must be received by 2 December using the special form in Your Money. Or for a full guide to our Children's Bonus Bonds, freecall 0500 500 000, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NATIONAL SAVINGS
Unique Investment Opportunities from HM Treasury

"The Government has misrepresented the cost of the Firearms Bill. They have undervalued the property they are to confiscate, failed to mention the cost of putting 2,000 people out of work and ignored the cost of the litigation which will inevitably follow their ineffective and unjust proposals."

Albie Fox, Chairman, the Sportsman's Association

The Sportsman's Association

of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

"The bill is an illogical, media-led response to a complex problem. It will not work and may create a situation which is more dangerous than the one which exists at present. In attempting to ban a single category of object - centre-fire handguns - it fails to address the key issue: spree killing and how to prevent it."

Mike Yardley, National Spokesman, the Sportsman's Association

The Firearms (Amendment) Bill

This bill is now being considered by your MP's. It is most unlikely to affect conventional armed crime or prevent another Dunblane tragedy, but, it will:

Cost you, the Taxpayer, at least £300 Million*

* Some estimates put the cost of the legislation at over £1 Billion

Give the public a false sense of security

Distract attention from the policing failure at Dunblane*

Misdirect Police resources on a massive scale

Put 2000 people out of work

Drive handguns underground - fuelling the black market*

Ignore the advice of Lord Cullen's Inquiry

* Most experts believe that there are far more illegally owned handguns than legal ones

Why the Government's bill will not work

The Firearms (Amendment) Bill is unlikely to prevent another Dunblane type tragedy because it attempts to ban a single category of object - centrefire handguns. Such a ban is futile because a crazed individual might defeat the licensing system, or, much more likely, such a person might acquire a firearm by illegal means.

In his evidence to the Parliamentary Home Affairs Committee on the Possession of Handguns, Sir James Sharples, President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said that bans would not work and that the police service had learnt that it needed to pay more attention to the personal suitability of the individual. Although ACPO's position has subsequently changed, we think the truth in Sir James' comments is clear.

So what should be done?

The Sportsman's Association want better laws and improved vetting procedures for those who apply for or attempt to renew shotgun or firearm certificates. Thomas Hamilton was investigated 7 times without action being taken against him. We must ensure that this never happens again. There may be a need for a specialist firearms licensing authority as recommended by both the Home Office and Firearms Consultative Committee.

A centralised licensing authority would take the administrative responsibility for issuing firearm and shotgun certificates away from the police and put it in the hands of specialists. The weakness of existing arrangements is that police officers may be sent out on firearms enquiries without adequate training or knowledge.

What will the bill do?

The public should also be concerned about the consequences of the proposed legislation on sporting men and women and on the economy. In its present form this legislation will destroy at least 2,000 jobs. It will dislocate the lives of tens of thousands of decent, law-abiding sportsmen and women too and cost the taxpayer a great deal of money.

Some may say, that inconvenience to the shooting community, or slightly increased taxes for all are nothing as compared to the suffering of the parents and people of Dunblane. That is true. But, in a mature democracy there is only one good reason for legislation of the type proposed - a true public benefit. The firearms bill as proposed is illogical. It scapegoats the innocent, sets a dangerous precedent for confiscation of private property and may aggravate the problem of armed crime. It is the product of media-led politics.

THE TRUE COST OF THE FIREARMS BILL

The Government has revised its estimate for implementing the firearms bill from £25-50 million to £100 million. But, the published costings are still wildly wrong, not least, because they fail to mention the cost of putting 2,000 people on the dole. They only consider costs for the compensation of property loss at figures far below true market value.

The Sportsman's Association has engaged specialist accountants to estimate the real costs of the bill. They have concluded that the likely cost of the legislation will be £450 million (nearly 1/2 p in the £1 on income tax) with a minimum cost of £300 million. These figures are made up of:

- £56,000,000 (140,000 firearms to be confiscated from approx. 45,000 individuals at an average cost of £400)
- £18,000,000 (ancillary equipment which will become worthless when bill becomes law)
- £30,000,000 (loss of dealer's stock)
- £150,000,000 (costs to the treasury in dole and retraining of 2,000 specialist employees)
- £200,000,000 (loss of 1000 dealer's earnings @ average of £20,000 per annum for ten years)
- £2,400,000 (the bill for the 40 extra Government staff who will administer bill)
- £456,400,000 TOTAL COST (which is the equivalent of 100 new schools or 2 new hospitals)

Even these calculations exclude the increased policing costs and the price of litigation against this mistaken legislation.

How the Sportsman's Association began

The Sportsman's Association was formed at Bisley (the National Shooting Centre) on the 19th October, 1996. Six hundred ordinary people gathered because they were alarmed by Government proposals. In just over three weeks, 40,000 more have joined their ranks. We are still growing by several thousand members a day.

Who has joined the Sportsman's Association?

Our membership includes thousands of ordinary men and women from all walks of life, many of whom are parents. We were all appalled by Dunblane but we believe that the Government's proposed firearms legislation is wrong. It ignores Lord Cullen's advice, will destroy a great sport and creates an ominous precedent for introducing drastic, irrational legislation as a response to calamity. If, despite our best efforts, the Firearms Bill becomes law, we will challenge its legality in home and European courts.

The Sportsman's Association, No 1, Sentinel Works, Whitchurch Road, Shrewsbury, Salop. SY1 4DP
Telephone / fax: 01743 - 461 689

The Sportsman's Association

of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

No 1, Sentinel Works, Whitchurch Road, Shrewsbury, Salop. SY1 4DP
Telephone / fax: 01743 - 461 689
or 01743 - 874 905

JOIN US NOW!

If you are concerned about the Firearms Bill and other attacks on traditional sports, we need your help. As well as joining the Sportsman's Association we ask you to

WRITE AT ONCE TO YOUR MP
The address is: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Membership Application Form

I apply for membership of the Sportsman's Association of Great Britain and agree to abide by its Constitution & Rules. I wish to register my protest against the proposed legislation to restrict participation in shooting sports. I agree that the Association may keep my details on computer and that the Association may rely on the exemption from registering under the Data Protection Act.

I enclose my Membership Fee (minimum £5.00 Adults or £1.00 for junior members under 18) made payable to SAGB.

TITLE: _____ SURNAME: _____

FORENAMES: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ TELEPHONE: _____ FAX NO: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE: £5 £10 £25 £50 OTHER

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

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news

A question of 'bad grammars'

New league tables show that some selective schools fail to deliver, a heads' leader says

Judith Judd
and Fran Abrams

Fifty grammar schools are failing their pupils, according to this year's exam league tables, a headteachers' leader said yesterday.

Grammar schools select the best 30 per cent or less, and overall, 95 per cent should get five top GCSE grades, Peter Downes, past president of the Secondary Heads Association, said.

But the Government's performance tables for this year, published yesterday, show that, though some grammar schools are at the top, 50 schools did not meet that target and 18 had scores of less than 90 per cent. At A-level 35 of the schools were below the national average.

The Grammar Schools Association contested Mr Downes' views as "offensive". It said grammar schools' results were better than ever.

Mr Downes, head of Hinchbrook comprehensive school, Cambridgeshire, said that with the Education Bill, which will extend selection, going through the Commons, ministers had to ask themselves whether some of the 161 grammar schools were failing.

"The national average for pupils getting five GCSE grades A-C is 44 per cent," he said. "Any grammar school that is not getting 95 per cent should ask itself why."

"Either the selection process is ineffective and therefore suspect or they are failing to teach children properly. One of the



Holding their own: GCSE students at Arden comprehensive school in Solihull, West Midlands

Photograph: Brian Harris

negative effects of selection is to depress the performance of those at the bottom."

Roger Hale, head of Caistor Grammar School in Lincolnshire, said the intake of grammar schools varied in different parts of the country. In some cities, the percentage selected was as low as seven while in other places it might be 34.

"As a headteacher I would

not dismiss the performance of 50 schools without detailed information about their intake. We have been gathering information about test and exam results. Grammar schools are adding more value to their students than other types of school."

The publication of the tables caused controversy. Gillian Shepherd, Secretary of State for

Education, said: "Over five years tables have consistently driven up standards. This information provides an impetus for excellent schools and colleges to do even better, spurs those below average to set targets for improvement and galvanises poor performers into action."

However, David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Any attempt to argue that the improvement has been largely the result of league tables would be insulting to the professionalism of school staff."

Critics say the tables do not present a fair picture of schools' performance because they do not take into account intakes. Labour has said that it will publish year-on-year comparisons to show how schools are improv-

ing and develop "value-added" tables to show schools' effect on pupils' progress.

Ministers are also investigating "value-added" tables.

Research by Exeter University's geography department found that gender, school size and type and pupils' socio-economic backgrounds accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the variation in GCSE performance.

Gulf between best and worst still growing

Fran Abrams
Education Correspondent

The gulf between Britain's least and most successful pupils is continuing to grow, official school league tables published today reveal. While the proportion of pupils gaining five high grades at GCSE rose by 1 per cent this year, the proportion leaving school with nothing fell by just 0.2 per cent.

The government spent £1.2m on publishing its fifth annual league tables of exam performance and truancy for every school, making the exercise its biggest publishing project.

Last night a headteachers' leader claimed that the tables could actually be forcing some pupils into failure. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the "long tail of

underachievement" had remained stubbornly in place despite them.

"If league tables are having any impact at all it is more than arguable that they are damaging the interests of the least able," he said.

Nationally, 44.5 per cent of pupils now leave school with at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C while 7.9 per cent leave without even one grade G. One

hundred schools, all of them fee-paying, selective or both, pushed 100 per cent of their pupils through five or more high-grade GCSEs this year. In two schools, both with high proportions of pupils with special needs, none reached that level.

The school with the highest average A-level points score was an independent school in Birmingham. At King Edward VI

School for Girls, the average pupil gained three As and a C.

The highest A-Level score at a comprehensive was at Fulford School in York, with an A and two Bs. The top GCSE score at a comprehensive was at the Blue Coat School in Liverpool, where 97 per cent of pupils gained five or more A*-C grades.

At the bottom of the scale were 21 schools where fewer

than 5 per cent of pupils gained five or more A*-C grades. On the truancy scale, the worst performers had almost a quarter of their pupils missing on any given half day. The most improved school was Banovaallum School, a secondary modern in Homcastle, Lincolnshire, where the percentage of pupils gaining five high-grade GCSEs went up from 11 per cent in 1995 to 39 per cent in 1996.

TOP 20 GRAMMAR SCHOOLS	
St Albans School, Hertfordshire	95.0
St Paul's School, London	94.8
St George's School, London	94.5
St John's School, Kent	94.2
St Peter's School, London	93.8
St Andrew's School, London	93.5
St David's School, London	93.2
St Edmund's School, London	92.8
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"So much damage has
already been done."

Now is the time
to put it right."

Jonathon Porritt

There are just four years left
in this century.

WWF invites you to do something
remarkable in those years.



Photo: NHPN/Daryl Bell

It has been a century of extraordinary progress for the human race. But for many other species with whom we share this planet, it has been a century of decimation. For some, the twentieth century may prove to have been their last on earth.

The Wildlife Millennium Covenant gives everyone who cares about the shame of the twentieth century the chance to redress its balance in its last few years.

The century of careless destruction.

There will be fireworks and jubilation come the millennium. Few will stop to reflect on the extent to which we have ruined the delicate balance of nature during this century. We have destroyed natural habitats across the world and in the oceans and rivers. We have polluted the waters, burned the forests and invaded the places where animals have lived since time began.

We have used the gun, the grenade and the harpoon to exert our power over other creatures. And now we can see the extent of these human crimes.

There are just 600 mountain gorillas left on earth.

There are just 11,000 rhinos left - twenty years ago there were 72,000.

There are just 6,000 tigers in Asia - down from 100,000 at the turn of the century.

There are less than 1,000 blue whales left in the Antarctic - there used to be 220,000.

Over 4,000 species of animals and 25,000 species of plants could vanish in the next few decades.

You have probably heard such statistics before. Perhaps they grieved you. Almost certainly, you felt that one person could do little to stop this senseless slaughter.

The true answer is a commitment that goes beyond the single donation. For we are launching a campaign to find a thousand British people willing to make a commitment to give £100 or more a year, or just £8.50 a month, for the years 1996-1999.

It is exactly the sort of help that WWF urgently needs to sustain its conservation work.

Jonathon Porritt is a WWF Trustee and one of the first to sign the Wildlife Millennium Covenant. As he puts it... "So much damage has already been done. Surely now is the time to put it right".

Why a covenant is crucial?

A covenant is the most profitable way to give to WWF because the Inland Revenue will give back the income tax you have paid on your gift. We receive more than £130 for every £100 you covenant, and all you have to do is commit to an annual sum for a minimum period of four years.

You do not have to be in employment to sign a covenant - just a taxpayer.

The form is a simple thing - any friend, colleague or member of your family can witness your signature. We do all the work

with the tax authorities and making a covenant makes no difference whatsoever to your current tax arrangements.

If 1,000 people covenant £100 a year for four years, the worth of this fund should be over £500,000 by the year 2000. We shall have a significant new fund with which to finance some of our key conservation projects over the next four years.

Six projects will be given priority from the Wildlife Millennium Covenant fund. One is the huge Thung Yai Reserve in Thailand, the largest wildlife sanctuary in the country and home to tigers, leopards, the Asian elephant, the Sumatran rhino and the Asiatic black bear.

Four other projects in Namibia, Mexico, Brazil and India are equally desperate for your help. The sixth area of support will be the South East Asia office of TRAFFIC, WWF's partner in monitoring the illegal trade in wildlife.

Will you sign the Wildlife Millennium Covenant now?

We urge you to covenant £100 a year from 1996 as your commitment to WWF's wildlife conservation work in the last years of the twentieth century. Alternatively you can choose to give just £8.50 a month. But if you can afford more, that would be a blessing.



We are looking for 1,000 people to make this commitment. If we succeed, we increase the chances of sustaining some of the world's most endangered species. If we fail, their chances of survival diminish. Please make the commitment.

THE WILDLIFE MILLENNIUM COVENANT, 1996-1999

I'd like to pay by Direct Debit:
Monthly ☐ Annually ☐ Annually/Monthly ☐ (delete as appropriate)
£8.50 per month £100 per year £ _____ Other _____

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Originator's Identification 001473

1. Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society branch
To: The Manager _____ Bank or Building Society
Address _____
Postcode _____

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)
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3. Branch sort code - -

4. Bank or Building Society Account Number

5. WWF-UK Reference Number

6. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society:
Please pay WWF-UK Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some types of account. Under the terms of the Data Protection Act, you have the right to advise us at any time if you do not want to receive further mailings from WWF or from organisations with whom we co-operate. Registered Charity No. 281707

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DEED OF COVENANT

(full name) _____
of (address) _____
Postcode _____

I hereby Covenant with WWF-UK that during my lifetime or until I give notice in writing, but for a minimum of four years, I shall pay to the fund on the _____ in each year such a sum as after deduction of Income Tax at the basic rate will amount to £ _____ or is equivalent to the annual payable to the Fund as at the date on which payment is due, whichever shall be greater.

SIGNED AND DELIVERED by me this _____ day of _____

19 ☐ Signature _____

In the presence of Witness of (address): _____
Postcode _____

Signature _____

- Please remember to fill in both forms.
- You can only make a covenant if you are currently a taxpayer.
- If you cannot make a covenant, you can of course use the direct debit form or make a cash donation to the Wildlife Millennium Covenant Appeal.
- If you have any trouble filling in these forms, simply phone us on 01483 426444 and ask for John West who will be delighted to help with any queries you might have.

THE WILDLIFE MILLENNIUM COVENANT, 1996-1999 from WWF-UK, Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR

news

THE WEAPONS DEBATE

New power for police to curb 'Rambo' knives

Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

New police powers to stop and search suspects, and legislation to restrict the promotion of "Rambo style" combat knives, was proposed by the Government yesterday.

The two initiatives are the latest attempts by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to tackle the growing concerns about the escalating knife culture. But the proposal to give police greater freedom to search people was immediately condemned by civil liberty groups as a draconian measure that could lead to unrest and discrimination in inner cities.

The Home Office is proposing to amend the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to allow police to stop and search in a specified area for "a suitable period" if a senior officer reasonably believes that people may be carrying weapons or drugs. A similar measure could be introduced in Scotland.

However after opposition from Labour it is understood that the Home Office has

agreed to drop the drugs aspect of the proposal and restrict it to knives.

This proposal follows an announcement earlier this month by Mr Howard that the police code of practice would be altered to allow officers to stop and search anyone they believed to be a member of a gang known to carry knives or other weapons.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, the civil rights organisation, said: "This latest proposal is a massive extension of stop and search powers. Any young person, any black person, any person with long hair, in fact any person at all will be subject to random and arbitrary searches by the police."

But Mr Howard said: "Extra stop and search powers for the police will tackle the real evil of people carrying knives in public without good reason."

In a letter to Labour's shadow home secretary Jack Straw, and the Liberal Democrats' spokesman Alex Carlisle, Mr Howard also proposed a new offence of marketing a knife in a way which suggests an aggressive use for it. This would

apply both to its name and advertising. However Mr Howard admitted this would not prevent the sale of any knives, just their packaging.

He said: "This would not guarantee the prohibition of the sale of undesirable knives. But it would stop them being called by unacceptable names or being accompanied by unacceptable language." The new marketing offence - aimed at weapons with names like The Vindicator - would carry a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine.

The new measures could be taken through the Commons by Labour MP Jimmy Wray. Mr Wray came top in a ballot for backbenchers to have an opportunity to pilot legislation on to the statute book. He is in discussion with Labour about the precise wording of the Bill, which will be published in early December.

Jack Straw said the Home Office proposals, which will be considered by Labour when they receive full details, was belated recognition by ministers that the law surrounding knives could be tightened.



Not forgotten: Yesterday at Dunblane cemetery where the teacher Gwen Mayer and some of the pupils who died with her in the school massacre are buried. Photograph: Colin McPherson

'16 tiny bodies in cold graves who should not be there'

Anthony Savins
Political Editor

The high emotion of the Dunblane crusade against handguns continued yesterday, in the wake of the clear-cut Commons defeat for a total ban.

Ann Pearson, of the Snowdrop Campaign, told the BBC radio Today programme: "All I know is that in the very cold cemetery in Dunblane there are 16 tiny children and a beloved teacher who shouldn't be there; cold under the ground."

"They should be warm and they should be with their families, and although money in the pocket is important, and basic health care and educating your children is important, what is more important is not having the life of a loved one taken from you, or a child of yours disabled for the rest of their life."

Given the absence of 22 Labour, and seven Liberal Democrat, MPs from the vote, and a Government majority of 25 against a total ban on handguns, Opposition sources were yesterday keen to emphasise that Labour could not have won the vote - because the Ulster Unionists would have saved the day for John Major.

The Government's overall majority at present stands at one vote over all other parties, but there were four Ulster Unionists and three Democratic Unionists voting with the Government - more than offsetting the votes of the four Conservative MPs who voted with Labour and the other minority parties.

In theory, the votes of the missing Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs could have been enough to defeat the Government.

In fact, most of those missing MPs were "paired" off with 18 non-voting Conservative MPs. If they had not reached such an arrangement, their votes would have been needed by Conservative MPs who would have been forced to stand up to vote.

Among the Labour MPs who were paired in that way were some who have been ill for some time, and some, including Labour women's spokesman Clare Short, who are on official visits abroad.

Labour whips said that some of those who were paired, including Frank Cook, Stockton North, and David Young, Bolton South East, would have abstained even if they had not been paired.

Tragedy shows it is time to do something for Scotland

The world stops rarely. Things go out of focus, time ceases to march, trivia becomes of consuming importance. Questions you had never given a second thought become the only ones worth asking. You forget yourself.

But people are weeping in the street. Parents are scurrying for home, or huddling at school gates. No one says anything worth hearing. This happens everywhere, simultaneously, while television becomes hyp-

notic and the people paid to put things into words discover precisely how useless words are. That was Dunblane.

A small nation is its own world, parochial, introverted, engulfed by intimacy. This is both comforting and claustrophobic, but it is a fact you forget until something profound enters the nervous system of your society. And here's another fact: Dunblane happened in Scotland, but it also happened to Scotland.

According to the parliamen-

Why not a ban on all handguns in Scotland, argues Ian Bell

tary friends of the gun lobby, begging the only question, emotion makes for bad law. It is their duty to be above such things when they defend the rights of decent, ordinary shooters against hysterical grief. (Quite a phrase, "hysterical grief": there's another kind?) So we elect to Parliament people capable of debating, with exquisite discrimination, the relative potencies of various killing ma-

chines who yet refuse to allow the human currency of simple misery into their deliberations.

But they won that point, the shooters, if no other. Parliament and media bought the line that any law made in response to the Dunblane murders had to be dispassionate, infinitely reasonable, and above all immune to anything people actually felt. This, somehow, is how good law is made. Emotion is illegitimate;

what people feel is not a fit subject for legislation.

So Michael Howard produced his scales. The tonnage of hard evidence was weighed against the tonnage of lobbying. In the end an ounce of real feeling - the "emotional blackmail" of the parents and the Snowdrop campaign - tipped the balance a little. But just to ensure that Tory MPs did not let feelings get the better of them, the whips

noted on behalf of all. The beating of children is a matter of conscience; the response to their murder, somehow, is not.

It is difficult to convey precisely how inadequate all of this, particularly for Scots. The very tone of the parliamentary arguments seemed out of scale and tawdry; the nature of the people making the decision ugly and obvious.

The Scottish National Party

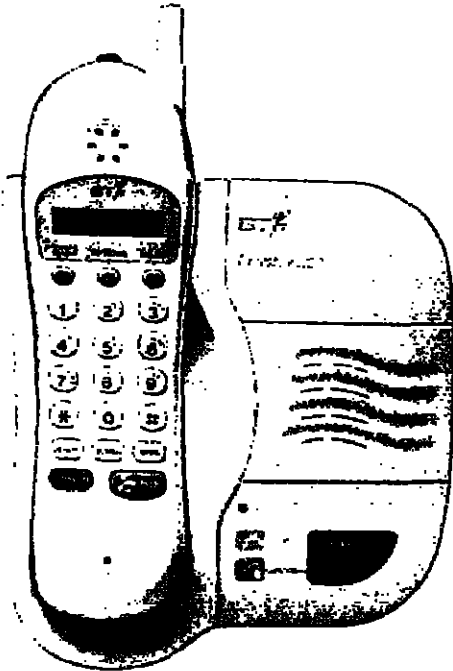
Tories, for their part, have no more mistakes to make in Scotland. That, in itself, might be a mistake. The anger over this miserable compromise runs deep. It is more potent than any row over toy parliaments and tax-raising powers. We will ban some guns, they allow. We will care a bit, feel a little. But not when a hobby is at stake, too much. Now vote for us, please. The Scottish National Party proposes, meanwhile, that handguns should at least be banned

in Scotland. In the Westminster way of things, this is held to be impossible, if not ridiculous. But how so? Pub licensing laws differ, why not gun laws? It is the wish of the majority of Scottish MPs. It is the wish, come to that, of the vast majority of Scots. Something terrible was done to Scotland at Dunblane. This story will not be over, you suspect, until something adequate is done for Scotland. Ian Bell is a columnist for 'The Scotsman'

Give something that's bound to get a good reception.

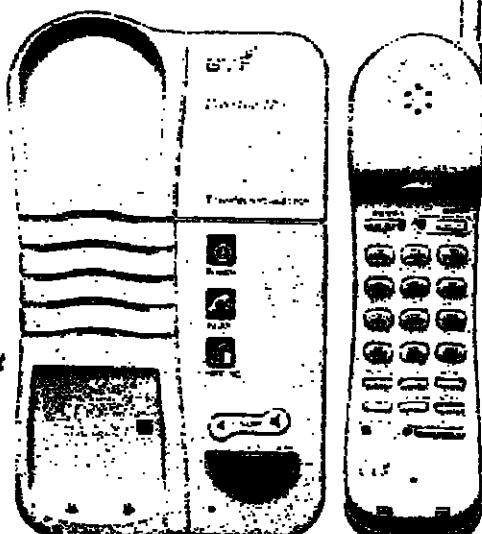
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مكتبة الامم

news

Rugby players' food may have been spiked

Steve Boggan
Chief Reporter

Fresh claims that the New Zealand rugby team was poisoned before its defeat in the World Cup final against South Africa last year have surfaced following investigations by the team doctor and a private detective.

Mike Bowen, the doctor who cared for most of the team when they suffered food poisoning on the day before the final, has told a shocked New Zealand public that he has identified an African herb which he believes was used deliberately to spike tea and coffee.

Rumours of the poisoning have been circulating since New Zealand lost 15-12 in front of a triumphant President Nelson Mandela, but team members have been reluctant to discuss them because they felt they would be accused of sour grapes.

However, in claims coinciding with the launch of his autobiography, Laurie Mains, the team coach, says an internal South African inquiry and a private detective he hired himself found that the team's drinks were spiked with a herb known locally as "Indian trick". The herb is odourless and tasteless but is reputed to induce symptoms similar to severe food poisoning.

"I've always thought it was likely [that the team was poisoned]," Dr Bowen said. "But I never had any evidence that anything was spiked." He said he had since heard that Indian

trick would have produced the symptoms suffered by the team.

Mains said his private investigator had established that a South African waitress known only as "Susie" had been paid to slip Indian trick into the team's tea and coffee on the eve of the final. He did not say, however, how he could be sure or who had paid the waitress.

"I just knew this was no case of ordinary old food poisoning," he said. "We were very, very sick, all but about four or five members of the whole touring party."

The sporting world remains sceptical about the claims, particularly since they coincide with the launch of Mains' autobiography. A fresh controversy is usually regarded as vital to the sales of sports books.

Some believe the fact that no official inquiry has ever been conducted by the New Zealand rugby authorities speaks volumes about how they view the claims. The new allegations were certainly not being taken seriously by the South Africans.

"It is ridiculous that they should be saying this," Boston Banda, first secretary of the South African Embassy's political section in London, said.

"They stayed at a hotel, so their food and drinks were supplied at a neutral location. We denied the claims when they first began circulating. I have never heard of anything called Indian trick and, as far as we are concerned, we won the game fair and square."

Try scorer and scrum half join winger and kicker for eternal game of rugby in the sky



Stadium sentinels: Two new bronze statues by the sculptor Gerald Laing were yesterday put in place above the Rowland Hill Gate entrance at Twickenham in south-west London to complete the quartet commissioned by the Rugby Football Union. The first two players took up their positions last March. Photograph: Tom Pilsten



"I saw an accident when a friend fell from the truck taking us to the plantation. The tyre ran over his leg and he was sent to the company dispensary. They amputated his leg. He got no compensation and had to buy a plastic leg with his own money. The man has not worked since the accident." PINEAPPLE PLANTATION WORKER, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Amputation without compensation in the pineapple industry of the Dominican Republic.

Dismissal for not working overtime in the grape industry of Brazil.

The fruit in your supermarket trolley may look wholesome and appetising, but there's often something rotten inside.

The misery beneath the clingfilm

It doesn't stop at fruit. There are heart-rending stories of exploitation behind produce like vegetables, nuts, flowers, coffee, even prawns.

The details vary, but the themes are consistent enough: low pay, tin-shack housing, unfair dismissal, child labour.

It makes you angry and it makes you want to do something. Well you can.

Why not a boycott?

A boycott isn't the answer because it

can make things even worse for the growers and pickers by taking away the market. And in any case, you can't always tell just by looking which products involve exploitation and which don't.

The answer is actually more inspiring: it's to encourage your supermarket to ensure fair pay and conditions for the producers of all the goods it sells.

Change the rules

Supermarkets have astonishing financial muscle. Some British chains have incomes bigger than the entire economies of Third World nations. When that kind of money talks, people listen.

Supermarkets are increasingly sensitive to social issues, and they care what their customers think.

So let them know you want them to help change the rules of global trade.

The Supermarkets Third World Charter

The first step is to ask your local supermarket to embrace the Supermarkets Third World Charter, which aims for fair prices and conditions all the way along the production chain.

Send the coupon or call us at Christian Aid for an information pack that shows you the simple action you can take next time you shop.

"There are families with four, five or six children who must live off 54 peso (about £2.45) per day."

The words are those of a pineapple plantation worker in the Dominican Republic. In making your supermarket listen to you, you're making them listen to her, and to millions of people like her throughout the Third World.

Send the coupon now or call us on 0345 000 300

I want to know what action to take. Please send me the information pack.

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Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

Channel Island people profited from Nazis

John Crossland

Details of the German occupation of the Channel Islands were disclosed yesterday, revealing evidence of islanders profiting from their neighbours' misery and the cruelty of the only concentration camp ever operated on British soil.

The last tranche of Channel Island documents, released yesterday at the Public Record Office, throw a harsh light on what the Germans called "the model occupation".

The files are largely transcripts of interrogations of escapees undertaken by MI19 the intelligence organisation charged with building up a picture of enemy resources and morale. They give lists of collaborators and "Jerrybags", island women who slept with German soldiers and frequently bore their children.

They also provide the fullest picture yet of the horrors of the Alderney camps, where slave workers - mostly Russian - were starved and beaten to death in the sealed off island.

Jersey women's behaviour was resented even more than the food shortage. One anonymous informant told his intelligence debriefers: "The behaviour of a great number of women has been quite disgraceful. There are many illegitimate children on the island born to German fathers ..."

Many of the mothers are married to serving British soldiers ... The states [island parliament] at present have to pay for the upkeep of these German-sired children but what will happen after the occupation?"

He pointed out that under Jersey law a husband was re-

sponsible for the upkeep of his wife's illegitimate children and there was no redress.

The report says: "Informants report a considerable discontent with the states administration. There will after liberation be a general demand for the incorporation of Jersey into the UK ... they speak of timidity and passive acceptance of the demands of the occupying forces. The island bosses moreover have lived well. Though they may have no increased bank balances at the end of the war as evidence against them, they

have never gone short of food, fuel and other commodities that are in short supply for the man in the street."

A 24-year-old farmer, Oscar Horman, and his friend Charles Bordis, a clerk, who escaped to England via France after D Day, singled out two racketeers for special attention: Mr Le Gresley, the food controller, and Major Le Masurier, president of the supreme council.

They were accused of taking the small amount of food left behind in 1940 and not commandeered by the Germans. "These few loads were taken by lorry to the private houses of island chefs such as Le Gresley and Le Masurier. This was reported to informants by J Curwood of Rouge Boulton who was one of the lorry drivers concerned."

The papers also give a sickening catalogue of the treatment suffered by the slave workers used to build Hitler's Atlantic wall. SS guards used their bloodhounds to hunt the prisoners across the "deadline" so that they would be shot "while attempting to escape".

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Horman and Bordis told the officers of a new party that was formed on the island called the Jersey Democratic Society. "This is not a resistance group it is a movement with post-war aims," the files say. "It leads the campaign for the abolition of Jersey's feudal system and independence by publishing and distributing illegal pamphlets in which instances of graft and double dealing are fully set out with names and evidence."

The escapees described plans for revenge on unfaithful women. "The patriotic youths of the island have their own plans well laid," the papers say. "They are not going to copy the French by cutting off the hair ... They have been collecting stocks of tar for the day of liberation and publicly tar and fatter all Jerrybags they can lay their hands on ..."

The local police are determined to turn a blind eye when the husbands return because murder will be done and public opinion will be in general approval.

The files give examples of war crimes, including the crucifixion of Russian slave workers and the drowning, in full sight of the Alderney coast, of a bailed-out Lancaster bomber crew without any help being given. They confirm that Kurt Klebeck, who until recently was under investigation for his role in running the concentration camp on Alderney, was "in charge of the prisoners" on the island.

The papers also give a sickening catalogue of the treatment suffered by the slave workers used to build Hitler's Atlantic wall. SS guards used their bloodhounds to hunt the prisoners across the "deadline" so that they would be shot "while attempting to escape".

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Social services shake up follows abuse controversy

Roger Dobson

A major review of Wales's biggest social services department has been launched following allegations - including abuse, claims of child prostitution and mismanagement - that have seen three senior members of staff suspended.

Cardiff County Council has been dogged by controversy since taking over from the former South Glamorgan authority during local government reorganisation last April.

In that time, a former care worker has been jailed for abusing children in his charge, a lorry driver who abducted girls from a home in the city has been jailed, police are investigating alleged abuse at the former Taff

Vale home, a care worker has been disciplined for not following procedures when a 13-year-old girl went missing, and a young man has started legal action after allegedly contracting HIV in care.

There have also been complaints about management practice and the council is accused of trying to gag Karen McKay, a care worker, who spoke out about problems.

Now, the authority has decided to hold what is described as a fundamental review of social services which will be subjected to external scrutiny.

A separate inquiry panel, chaired by a lawyer, will look into the allegations about management practice, but will not investigate abuse claims sur-

rounding the now closed Taff Vale home. Detectives are trying to trace more than 400 former residents and staff there.

The suspension of the three senior officers concerned management practices and was not connected with claims of abuse.

The authority has also devised an 11-point strategy which includes the introduction of a child care action team to look at children at risk from prostitution, drugs and other crimes. A spokesman for Voices From Care, which looks after the interest of children in care, said: "We welcome the tightening up of rules, but we would point out that significant numbers of young people have faced injustices and in some cases the damage is irreparable."

Mass walk-out brings universities to a halt

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

Around 100,000 employees staged a 24-hour pay strike which almost brought British universities to a standstill yesterday as tough new proposals to curb industrial action were published by the Government.

Yesterday's action involved more workers - from professors to porters - than any other stoppage since the miners' strike. Despite the weather, union members staged rallies, marches and demonstrations at universities as far apart as Swansea and Aberdeen. The eight unions involved said that few members crossed picket lines.

The protest, at wage offers of 2.5 per cent for manual workers and 1.5 per cent for the rest, is expected to continue with disruptive action stopping short of yesterday's strike.

Under the Green Paper, most of the university employees who walked out would have been involved in unlawful action. The document says that stoppages should only be legitimate if more than half of eligible union members vote for strikes - rather than a majority of those who return voting forms. Only 38 per cent of members of Unison, the public services union, voted in the strike ballot.

It is also doubtful whether a stoppage at Scotland on 9 December, announced yesterday by train drivers' union Aslef, would be lawful under the Green Paper. The union would possibly have to ensure that some services ran where there was no alternative transport.

Introducing the Green Paper yesterday, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said it was not his responsibility to draw a line between what would infringe the proposed law and what would not. That would be decided by the courts.

In broad terms, any industrial action which risked life, health and safety or posed a threat to national security would be included. Strikes which damaged property or the economy would also be unlawful.

A potential catch-all phrase, however, is that any action which caused "significant disruption of everyday life or activities in the whole or part of the country" would be considered illegal.

Mr Lang said ministers would allow three months for consultation over the Green Paper and acknowledged that any legislation might well depend on a Conservative victory at the general election.

Other proposals in the Green Paper mean that unions would have to give 14 days notice of action rather than the present seven days; that they would have to hold fresh ballots every two or three months during industrial action; or after an unspecified number of short-duration stoppages.

Mr Lang said his proposals were "reasoned, considered" and relevant to the state of public service strikes during the summer. Courts would soon decide where the boundaries lay. "It is the kind of decision they reach regularly in civil areas," he said.

Asked about employers' scepticism towards the plans, he said that companies had expressed doubts about previ-

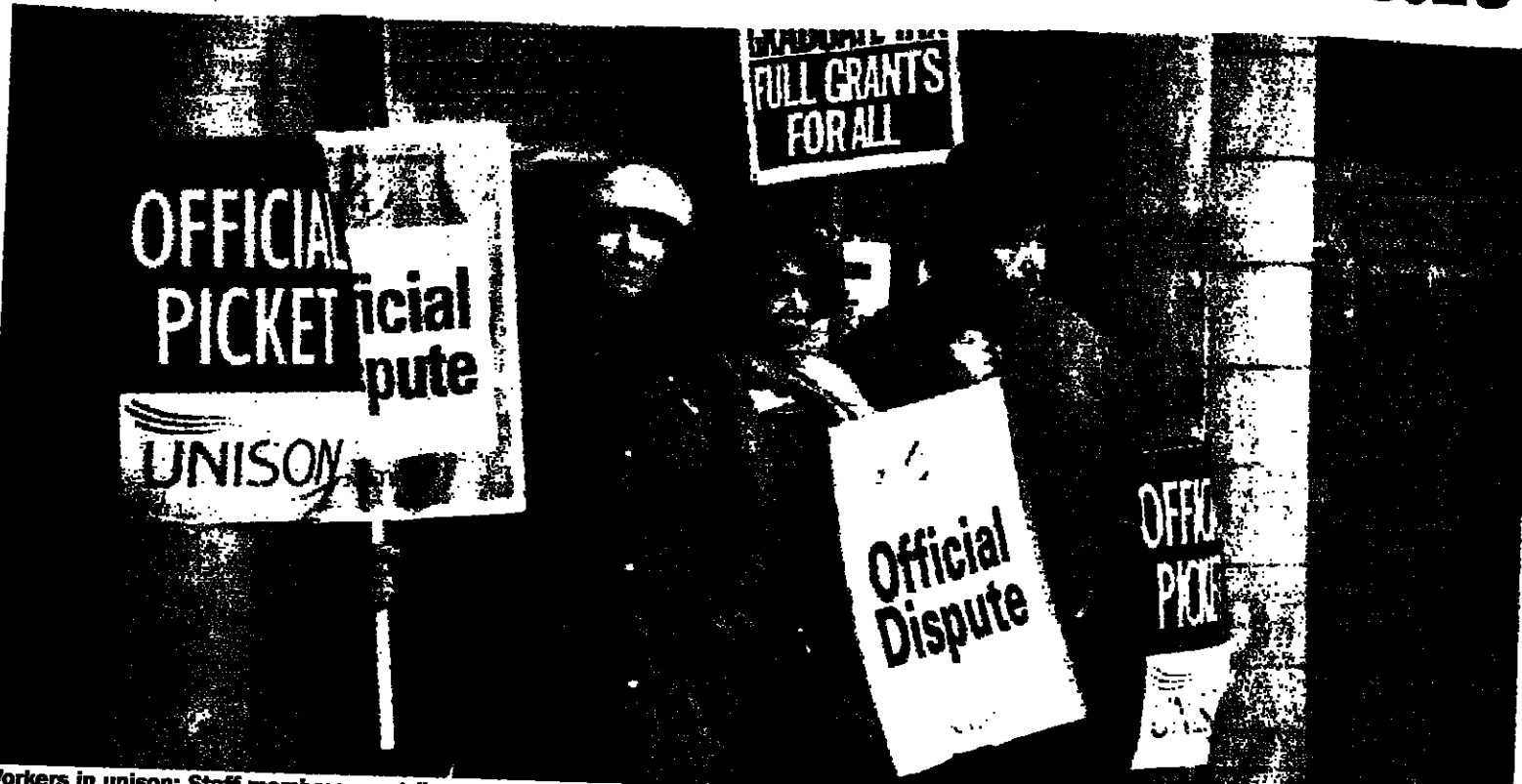
ous employment legislation, but had subsequently embraced them.

The Engineering Employers' Federation and the Institute of Directors declared that existing laws had already struck the right balance between both sides of industry and companies were not clamouring for more.

The organisations warned that the wording of the Green Paper was confused and vague. The CBI added that its members doubted if the plans were workable. Under the proposals, aggrieved employers - together with other businesses and members of the public affected by industrial action - could seek injunctions and if necessary sue unions for ordering strikes which had a "disproportionate or excessive" impact.

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, said Mr Lang was "electioneering". "If these proposals were ever implemented, there would be a fundamental shift in power to bad employers and industrial disputes would be harder to resolve," he argued.

Leading article, page 19



Workers in unison: Staff members on strike outside the University of North London, Holloway Road, yesterday

Photograph: David Rose

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Consumers turn tables on loyalty cards

Glenda Cooper

Shopping has been changed for ever by the "astounding" growth in loyalty cards, with 20 million supermarket cards issued in the last 18 months alone.

According to new research more than half of all credit cards issued now include some kind of loyalty programme, which has become the main weapon in the battle for customers.

The Loyalty Report, commissioned by GM Card, a Vauxhall Motors company, says that this is due to the changing economic and social climate with suppliers realising they must offer tangible rewards to tempt the "footloose" customer to remain loyal.

Research among more than 700 consumers found that loyal shoppers tend to spend twice as much as free-wheeling shoppers at their first-choice store. This is particularly true when it comes to grocery shopping where loyal shoppers spend up to four times as much.

But the report's author, Professor Steve Worthington, of Staffordshire University, found that increasing competition from supermarkets, petrol stations and airlines as well as traditional debit and credit cards has led customers to be more discerning about the programmes offered.

"Customers are actively looking for the best loyalty scheme to join," Professor Worthington said. "They are no longer passive recipients of schemes bolted

onto other profits... Rather, customers are now becoming more aware of their individual "value" to the competing suppliers of goods and services and they are consciously looking to be rewarded for their patronage."

For every £3,000 spent customers now have a wide choice of rewards ranging from a free meal for two (American Express), £30 off a British Gas bill (Goldfish) or £120 off your mortgage (Bradford and Bingley Building Society).

Actual monetary value for every £100 spent varies considerably, from £4 at Bradford & Bingley to 20-25p on the TSB Truscard. Most cards have a real rate of return on money spent of around 1 per cent although it can vary from 0.25 to 4 per cent. The three supermarket group loyalty cards - Tesco, Sainsbury and Sainsbury - all offer £30 off a grocery bill for every £3,000 spent.

The future of such programmes, Professor Worthington concludes, is the development of alliances between different kinds of companies. Shell "Smart" points can already be redeemed at John Menzies or converted into air miles and Tesco Clubcard points can be collected at B&Q stores.

However, the professor warns companies against complacency. A loyalty programme, no matter how attractive, is "not a panacea for a poorly run organisation", he said. "Consumers will no longer tolerate organisations which fail to respond to their needs."

DAILY POEM

Present Discontents

by Edmund Blunden

Seeking no more

The anguishes of to-morrow's peace or war,
I can think only of to-day in terms
That no 'great journal' ridicules or confirms.

This sky and earth

In my impression certainly seem worth
Some hours of my concern, and maybe yours:
Rooks, peewits, herons I consult to-day,
If I can find them in the glades and moors,
And if they have some truths to flash my way.

Should they say no,

I do not doubt some coral-berried tree,
Slenderest and finest she where many grow,
Will well contrive to catch me suddenly.

And mark that tower

High on the ridge, cool-lighted and austere;
As if I never before imagined power,
His quiet domination fills me here.

While long, long centuries through my tiny hour,
And the lark cries to the sun - in this or any year.

The centenary of Edmund Blunden's birth on 1 November was marked this year by a small ceremony in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey. Blunden wrote more war verse than any other poet of the First World War, but, unlike Siegfried Sassoon, for example, he continued as a poet until his death in 1974. Still, he wrote: "My experiences in the First World War have haunted me all my life, and [I have] it seemed, lived in that world rather than this." Blunden has recently published *Overtones of War*, a volume of selected poems by Blunden from 1914-1968, edited and introduced by Martin Taylor.

politics

The women in the House reveal their secret agenda

There are not many inhabitants of Westminster who remind one of famous movie stars. And Elizabeth Peacock is no exception. The blonde Tory member for Batley and Spen is best known for having advocated the televised flogging of miscreants – the punishment to be meted out as part of the National Lottery programme (the idea flourished when Anthea Turner's agent demanded a cut for her).

But during the dying moments of environment question



DAVID AARONOVITCH

time – just as the chamber was filling up for Prime Minister's Questions – Speaker Betty (obviously in a pleasant reverie) called upon Elizabeth Taylor to

ask her supplementary on open-cast mining in the Batley area. In fact she called her twice, before realising that Ms Taylor was not available, and that Ms Peacock would have to suffice.

By the time she corrected her mistake, it was too late. Most of MPs too – had begun to wonder what Liz would have asked and how. Clad in a gigantic fur, her eyes kohled, her jewellery dripping from ear and finger, her every surface manicured and coloured (a bit like a very

expensive Michael Fabricant), would she have arisen and said "Thank you Madam Speaker on my behalf and on behalf of my very good friend, Michael Jackson, who wanted so much to be here with us this afternoon. Is the minister aware..."

And what other unexpected superstars of the silver screen also lurk beneath the quotidian exteriors of those on the green benches, in Betty's imagination? Clint Howard? Errol Heselton (dig those tights)? It was the last laugh we had.

Soon we were all caught up in one of those fractious and charming occasions which will punctuate the period between now and the blessed relief of the election. As is customary, it began with a Tory saying that unemployment was less than zero in her constituency, but would shoot up to Great Depression levels within minutes of a Labour victory.

When Tony Blair stood up it was pretty obvious to everyone that he would seek to make capital out of the previous night's

gan vote, contrasting government pusillanimity with his own iron resolve. So, just below me, Mr Major had his line well prepared, complete with quotes and cuttings he had probably practised with in front of the mirror.

But Tony Blair had – in the words of *Blackadder's* Baldrick – a "cunning plan". He asked a question that no one was expecting at all, concerning the failure (despite an obscure promise some two years ago) to get rid of mixed wards in hospitals. This completely threw the PM.

"We seek to make progress", he floundered, before recovering himself enough to plunder the large supply of spare National Health Service statistics that he keeps in a corner of his head.

"Yaaaargh," yelled the Toby Belch-like figure of George Foulkes from the back of the Labour benches at the Prime Minister. "Gaaaargh," bellowed the death-head features of Tory David Shaw at Mr Blair. "Order!" shouted Speaker Betty at all of them.

But why (apart from wrong-

footing the PM) had Tony picked this issue? The answer emerged only with the last question of the session when Margaret Hodge was called. Was the PM aware how insulting his answer to her leader would have been to millions of women forced to endure the dangle bits of pyramidal chaps in mixed wards?

Aha! Women! The gender gap! All became clear. And there are still 161 shopping trolleys full of shopping. No wonder Betty was dreaming of it.

Ministers being sneaky over euro, say MPs

JOHN RENTOUL and DIANE COYLE

The Government faces a backbench uprising today as preparations for the European single currency exposed the divisions in both Conservative and Labour parties.

Tory MPs are furious at what they see as the Government "sneaking through" plans they fear would tie the pound to the euro even if Britain stays out of monetary union. And Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, came under pressure from the Trades Union Congress to adopt a more positive approach to the single currency.

John Redwood, last year's Tory leadership challenger, said EU plans for "reinforced convergence procedures" to be imposed on countries which do not adopt the euro would mean Britain could lose its opt-out from the discipline of the single currency.

Documents to be vetted by MPs in a committee session this morning include plans to increase pressures on non-joiners to bring their economies into line with euro countries, including a new exchange-rate mechanism, and a stability pact, to impose large fines on countries which join the euro and fail to keep to budget limits.

In the documents, Kenneth

Clarke, the Chancellor, defends convergence rules, and says that, whether or not Britain converts to the euro, "policies aimed towards convergence – low inflation and sound public finances – are sound in their own right".

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, said whichever party wins the election will face a choice between joining the first wave of European Monetary Union from 1 January 1999 or seeing Britain isolated in Europe.

The wait-and-see option, reaffirmed by Mr Brown in his speech to the City last night, carries the risk that the UK would find it hard to join later on satisfactory terms, Mr Monks argued. Britain's negative approach had already "poisoned the water" for any new prime minister.

Mr Brown confirmed Labour would hold a referendum if it decided to join "in the course of the next parliament", but Mr Monks warned that it should not be used as an excuse to delay entry.

Today the Government relegates the most important issue facing the country to an obscure standing committee of mostly obscure MPs. Instead of Mr Clarke facing Mr Brown across the despatch box in the Chamber to discuss EU plans for the

euro, Phillip Oppenheim, the most junior Treasury minister, faces Mike O'Brien, Mr Brown's number four, in a committee room upstairs.

The Government was condemned by 144 backbench MPs, including 94 Tories, for refusing to debate the plans on the floor of the House.

A motion by Jimmy Hood, Labour chairman of the all-party European Legislation committee, said the plans "raise questions of legal and political importance" and should be debated by the whole House. As well as most of the Tory Euro-sceptic "usual suspects", the motion was also signed by pro-Europeans Hugh Dykes, Sir David Knox, Peter Bottomley and Sir Terence Higgins.

Mr Dykes said: "The essence of the ministerial posture is to say, 'Don't let's discuss it, it's too awkward, let's push it to one side'. It is the most important subject facing the nation. I believe the public will get increasingly in favour of it as they discuss it."

And David Heathcoat-Amory, the former Treasury minister, said: "These regulations will set up a massive transfer of powers away from the House of Commons and I want that properly debated, properly voted on, so that everyone can know what we're doing."



This Is An Example Of Quarantine Kennels In Kent These Are Conditions Under Which Your Pets Are Kept In Quarantine

Quarantine Is A Trade Not A Policy

Best friends: Passports for Pets campaigners lobbying Parliament yesterday against quarantine rules which they say allow cruelty in kennels. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

THE SCORE

John Major
3/10
Tony Blair
7/10

Surprised by Blair's line of questioning, Major's words on the NHS, his strategy with the Tories, and his reply to that. His answers to other questions were also poor.

Forced Major to admit that despite government promises two years ago, the abolition of mixed wards had not been made a priority and nothing had been done.

THEMES OF THE DAY

"Low levels of unemployment in my constituency" (Anne Winterton, C).
"Congestion, Graham Riddick, C, Colne Valley."
"Education Boards in Northern Ireland (John Hume, SDLP Foyle)."
"Steel (Rosemary Cunningham, SNP Perth and Kinross).

BLAIR'S ATTACK

Blair had been expected to ask questions about handgun but instead asked three questions on the government's promise to end mixed wards in NHS hospitals. Major did not know whether to be glad or worried by Blair's choice.

GOOD DAY...



MARGARET HODGE

asked whether Major was aware that fifty per cent of women who are put into psychiatric hospitals have a history of sex abuse, and asked for a date for the abolition of mixed wards. Major replied she should not "paint a picture of the NHS that does not exist for 95 per cent of people who actually use the NHS".

...BAD DAY



QUIP OF THE DAY

"If you vote red, you live in the red." The bare bones of a joke. Major could manage, focusing on Labour's proposals to "red" the NHS.

UNANSWERED QUESTION

Hume: "Could you explain to me why your Minister of Education has proposed that the number of education boards... in Northern Ireland be reduced from five to three... twenty MP from Northern Ireland... the leaders of all the political parties and the leaders of all the churches have disagreed with him... all the local authorities have disagreed with him." "Well I don't believe that... I don't believe that is the position..." began Major, but he did not know. He said he would find out and write her. Hume's letter.

CREEP OF THE DAY

Bernard Jenkin (C, Colchester N): "Is my Rt Hon Friend aware that the average household electricity bill in the Eastern Area is £272; in France it's £366; and in Germany it's £234. Doesn't this demonstrate the success of privatisation?"

Compiled by Ben Simons

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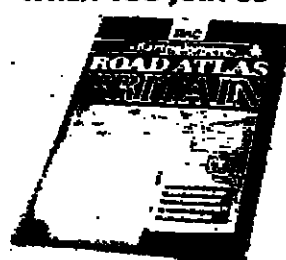
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West backs off from sending Zaire force

John Lichfield
and Christopher Bellamy

The British and US governments yesterday changed their minds about sending ground forces to Zaire, throwing the size, scope – and even the existence – of the proposed, international relief force into confusion.

The Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, said British plans were "on hold". The US government said that it was ready to help with transport, logistics, food, medicine and cash, but not ground troops. Other countries – notably France – are still prepared to go ahead but some hurried re-thinking of international plans will be necessary when the contributing countries meet in Stuttgart tomorrow.

Since the remnants of the genocidal Hutu army fled into the Zairean bush on Friday, over 500,000 Hutu refugees have abandoned their camps in eastern Zaire and plodded back towards their homes in Rwanda. The exodus has removed the most

obvious reason for the deployment of an international force: the creation of "safe" corridors to encourage Hutu civilians to break with the murderous former soldiers and return home.

Aid agencies, led by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), pointed out yesterday that up to 700,000 other Hutu refugees remained in Zaire, some in the southern camps around Bukavu cut off by Zairean rebels, others scattered in the vast forests to the west.

They said that an international force was still needed to locate and secure them. The French President, Jacques Chirac, also said that a multinational force was needed to provide security for "airfields and food convoys".

A senior EU official caused even greater confusion by suggesting that the mandate of the international force should be changed to help the Zairean government regain control of the eastern part of the country from the triumphant, mainly-Tutsi rebels. The comments by Aldo Ajel-

Jo, the EU representative in Kinshasa, will kindle suspicion that the real objective of some Western governments (notably the French) is to shore-up the collapsing Zairean state.

Mr Portillo said he could not authorise the proposed deployment of 1,500 to 3,500 British troops in the current "information vacuum", with vast numbers of refugees moving beneath the forest canopy. An RAF Canberra reconnaissance plane is being sent which can get below the cloud which has blinded US U-2 spy planes and satellites.

Speaking in Moscow, where he is on a 2-day visit, Mr Portillo said: "We don't have evidence from the south and therefore we must prudently assume that between half a million and one million refugees are unaccounted for."

"Therefore I have decided to do two things," he said. "A Canberra P9 reconnaissance plane will be sent and Britain will also work with the governments in the area to initiate an information campaign to tell people

of the large scale movements that have already taken place and, it is hoped, to stimulate others to separate themselves from the local militias and go home."

The Rwandan government insisted yesterday that the back of the humanitarian crisis was broken. All that was now needed was for the world to supply immense quantities of aid to the returning refugees in Rwanda itself. The foreign minister, Anastase Gasana declared that there were no more Rwandan civilians in eastern Zaire "with the exception of a few stragglers".

The UNHCR insisted, however, that there were 500,000 Hutus in the Bukavu region alone, prevented from returning home by the presence of Zairean Tutsi rebel forces between them and the Rwandan border. Rebel leaders admitted that this was the case – implicitly contradicting their allies in the Rwandan government – and offered to open up a safe corridor for the Bukavu refugees today. If this happens, and another immense log-jam of humanity is



A Hutu girl near the border town of Goma on her way back to Rwanda

Photograph: Reuters

dislodged, the case for an international, military force will appear even more shaky.

Officials and senior military officers from the nations offering to join a proposed force of 10,000-12,000 troops will meet in Stuttgart tomorrow to decide the mission's fate. Even Canada,

which had agreed to lead the force, appeared to be having doubts yesterday, at least about the scale of the operation. The Defence Minister, Doug Young, said in Ottawa that, if conditions continued to improve, the force might be reduced to a number of humanitarian relief units. "If we get the

Essay, page 20

US votes alone to see off Boutros-Ghali

David Usborne
New York

Exactly as promised, the United States did the deed at the United Nations yesterday, casting a lone and defiant vote against a proposal to grant a second term to Boutros Boutros-Ghali as Secretary General, taking no heed of the majority that supported him and instantly throwing the organisation into crisis.

The American veto was delivered in a secret ballot of the Security Council by US Ambassador Madeleine Albright, on a resolution backing Mr Boutros-Ghali sponsored by ten of the fifteen members, including France and Germany.

Not a single state offered the US the slightest solace either by voting with it or even ducking from the fight by abstaining. The UN headquarters was left positively vibrating with private and not-so-private expressions of indignation at the widely perceived arrogance of the US in the affair as well as anguished speculation as to what should happen next.

The position of Africa is now critical. By convention, Africans have the right to expect that someone from the continent holds the post of Secretary General for the next five-year term.

For now, the Boutros-Ghali camp is taking heart from the 14-to-one vote and the Secretary General himself has given no sign that he will quickly withdraw from the race.

But as America is within its right to use its veto as a permanent Council member – whatever the diplomatic costs to it may be – his chances of surviving beyond the conclusion of his first term on 31 December, have to be slim at best.

Sylvana Roca, the UN spokeswoman, spoke for many when she suggested that the US, which is fond of presenting itself as the champion of world democracy, seemed in this instance to have willfully ignored that principle.

"Clearly, this is not a democratic process," she told re-



Boutros-Ghali: The veto of his second term as Secretary-General of the UN has thrown the organisation into chaos

porters. One African ambassador was heard to mutter: "In a football game when the result is fourteen goals to one, it is not usually the side that scored one that is declared the winner".

Members of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) went into an immediate huddle yesterday to consider whether to stand by its endorsement, made in the summer, of Mr Boutros-Ghali or whether to abandon him in the face of America's intransigence and put submit new African names for consideration.

A decision from the OAU should come within days. The

Council has agreed that any discussions of alternative candidates will focus, at least in the first instance, on Africans.

For Washington, there can be scant glory in the predicament it has created for itself and for the organisation as a whole.

It is hard not to conclude that from the start of the affair America's strategy has been one born of ingrained foreign policy weakness.

Ever since June, moreover, it has been caught in the classic trap of not wanting to appear even more feeble by backing down, either by supporting the Egyptian for a second term or

agreeing to a compromise one- or two-year extension of his tenure.

The US frailty has been evident in the argument presented by the White House to justify its treatment of Mr Boutros-Ghali – that only by ditching him can it begin to start prevailing on the US Congress to change its attitude towards the UN and, hopefully, then release the \$1.4 billion in back-dues that it owes to the organisation.

It has also been glaringly demonstrated in the astonishing failure of the US, the world's last remaining super-power, to rally even its allies to its point of view in time for the vote yesterday.

The risk for the UN now is that the squabbling, rather than being resolved by yesterday's events, will only intensify over the coming weeks.

"The most damaging thing for the UN is not having a clear idea who is leading it," remarked Sir John Weston, the British Ambassador.

"We must not move forward as quickly as possible to resolve the leadership issue". In the most extreme scenario, the Council could remain deadlocked even into late December, if Mr Boutros-Ghali insists on remaining a candidate and if any of the permanent members decide to continue backing him and exercising their own vetoes to block any alternatives that may surface.

In that case, the events of 1954, when Norway's Trygve Lie was reappointed by the General Assembly in defiance of a Soviet veto in the Council, could repeat itself.

Such an outcome could drive the final nail in the coffin of American distrust of the UN and plunge the organisation into terminal constitutional crisis.

The path could be cleared, however, by a decision by the OAU to abandon Mr Boutros-Ghali. At that moment, which could come any day this week, his prospects would surely be hopeless and a list of new names would come forward.

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'Nato poses no threat,' says Russia

Nato no longer poses a threat to Russia, the Russian defence minister Igor Rodionov said last night. General Rodionov was speaking after a meeting in Moscow with Michael Portillo, the British Secretary of State for Defence. Russian military leaders have repeatedly raised concerns about Nato's planned eastward expansion to embrace the new democracies of Eastern Europe.

Mr Portillo will today address the Russian general staff academy and is expected to make further proposals for military co-operation between Russia and the Western alliance. Christopher Bellamy - Moscow

Turks to block use of Nato equipment

The Turkish Foreign Minister, Tansu Ciller, said yesterday that her country would block the use of Nato equipment by the Western European Union (WEU) because of Greek objections to Ankara's participation in WEU actions.

"Turkey will block all the support of Nato," she told reporters. "The WEU can do nothing without the support of Nato." According to a Turkish journalist, Ms Ciller said that Greece did not want Turkey, an associate member of the WEU, to participate in WEU activities such as peace-keeping and humanitarian aid. *Reuters - Istanbul*

Hijacker jailed for 1977 attack

Suhaila Andrawes, the only Palestinian terrorist to have survived the hijacking of a Lufthansa plane to Mogadishu in 1977, was jailed for 12 years yesterday by a Hamburg court.

Andrawes, aged 42, had been convicted in Somalia and sentenced to 20 years in jail, but was released after a year. She was discovered living in Norway and was extradited to Germany in 1995. The three other hijackers were shot dead when special German forces stormed the plane. *Imre Karacs - Bonn*

Mayor to be Romania PM

The popular mayor of Bucharest was designated as Romania's future prime minister yesterday, two days after the reformist Emil Constantinescu won presidential elections, ousting former Communists. Officials of the Peasant Party (PNȚCD), the largest party in a new parliament, said party leaders had chosen Victor Ciorbea to head the country's first coalition government not led by ex-Communists. *Reuters - Bucharest*

Rabbi's bones rest in peace

Disciples of Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav, a Jewish sage buried in Ukraine, tried for three nights last week to tunnel to his grave in the town of Uman and smuggle his bones to Israel, the *Ma'ariv* daily reported. *Reuters - Jerusalem*

King clings to throne

Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk denied he plans to abdicate and enter politics, saying he would remain on the throne until the turn of the century. The 74-year-old king is in China, where he is receiving medical treatment. *Reuters - Phnom Penh*

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All in the line of duty for Germany's Bond



Werner Mauss: Regarded as hero in the Fatherland

Imre Karacs
Bonn

Germany's top secret agent, who went missing several years ago, has been found in a Colombian jail, arrested in Medellin on Sunday night as he was trying to smuggle the kidnapped wife of a German executive out of the country.

Werner Mauss, a privatised James Bond licensed to mingle with terrorists and pay them off, was travelling in the company of a bogus wife under one of his numerous aliases. The "couple" had six forged passports between them, a .38 calibre Smith & Wesson revolver, and three gold credit cards issued by the Dresdner Bank.

According to Colombian police, Mr Mauss had paid \$1.8m

dollars (£1m) in ransom for Brigitte Schöne, the wife of the former local manager of BASF, a large German chemicals concern with extensive interests in Medellin. She had been abducted three months earlier by guerrillas of the pro-Cuba National Liberation Army (ELN).

Mr Mauss was identified with the help of the distinguishing mark listed in his Interpol files: a missing thumb tip. The Colombian press also reported that he was carrying a letter issued by the German embassy in Bogotá, certifying that the "couple" had lost their passports and were on official business.

What this might have been, however, remains a mystery. The payment of ransom money is illegal in Colombia, but Mr Mauss could have still en-

gaged the kidnappers' release locally, avoiding the extra complication of chartering a plane and fleeing abroad. "I myself wondered why I was given a false passport and was to fly to Venezuela," Ms Schöne said after being freed.

Breaking the law, has never stopped Mr Mauss, 56, who is described by the former head of Germany's Federal Criminal Office as "our secret weapon". He does not like to use his real name and is on the run from several convictions. Last year, a Belgian court sentenced him to jail in absentia for trying to bribe the country's police chief.

He may be a rogue, but he is handsomely rewarded for his actions and hailed as a hero in the Fatherland. His position is that of a "V-Man" - a freelance

agent hired by the government or large companies to carry out missions that are off-limits to the state. His name does not appear on the staff list of the BND, the German secret service, but official payments have been traced to his bank account.

Mr Mauss, who runs his business out of a fortified villa in Germany's Hunsrück region and flies a private jet, first found the limelight in 1976. He had been "sponsored" by three companies and the government - the latter to the tune of DM250,000 (£100,000) - to hunt down Rolf Pöhl, an urban terrorist. Mr Mauss found his man in Athens, promptly arrested him, but Germany never succeeded in having their suspect extradited. Mr Pöhl still lives in Greece, eluding

a meagre existence by giving German lessons. More successful was his mission, in 1976, to recover treasures stolen from Cologne Cathedral. His triumph led to more commissions, and then in the lucrative kidnap market. In recent years, he has been linked to even more unorthodox activities, and his name surfaces in the biggest unsolved puzzle of the past decade. In October 1987, Uwe Barschel, a prominent Christian Democrat leader in the centre of a murky political scandal, was found murdered in a bath tub in a Geneva hotel room. Very little is known about the affair, except that Mr Mauss was in Geneva that day and met Mr Barschel. That was the last time anyone saw Mr Barschel alive.

Sex row menaces Belgian coalition

Sarah Helm
Brussels

The Belgian parliament yesterday launched a commission of inquiry into claims that a Deputy Prime Minister, Elio di Rupo, had sex with young boys.

The latest paedophile scandal poses a serious threat to the coalition government of Jean Luc Dehaene, still reeling from the Marc Dutroux child-sex murders, which brought claims of government incompetence and cover-up.

Political figures predicted yesterday that Mr di Rupo, who is also Minister for Telecommunications, may be forced to resign, destabilising the centre-left coalition.

After days of rumour-mongering in the Flemish press, the Belgian authorities confirmed that police were investigating allegations of paedophilia against Mr di Rupo, a Francophone Socialist of Italian descent, and against Jean Pierre Gaffe, a minister in the Francophone regional government.

The allegations are not connected with the Dutroux atrocities, which involved the killing of at least four young girls and abuse of many more.

Mr di Rupo and Mr Gaffe, who are openly homosexual, vehemently deny the accusations, saying they are pleased inquiries are being launched to clear their names.

Mr Dehaene described the allegations as "sick and mad", according to one press report. Several commentators have warned against an anti-gay witch-hunt, saying there is no evidence that the men engaged in sex with partners other than consenting adults.

Nevertheless, the evidence against the two politicians has emerged as a direct result of the increased surveillance of public figures which followed public accusations that the Dutroux case was covered up in high places.

Reports yesterday suggested the evidence against the men had been presented by callers to a paedophile "hotline" set up in the wake of the Dutroux case in an attempt

to gather more evidence against those abusing children sexually.

In the public mind, the latest allegations are certain to confirm some of the widespread fears that corruption runs deep into the Belgian judicial and political system. Last month more than 250,000 people marched through Brussels demanding that the authorities account for their failure to avert the horrors perpetrated by Dutroux.

Public anger at the Belgian political class has also been fuelled by revelations about a se-

'It is unjust and base to take against citizens solely because of their sexual preferences'

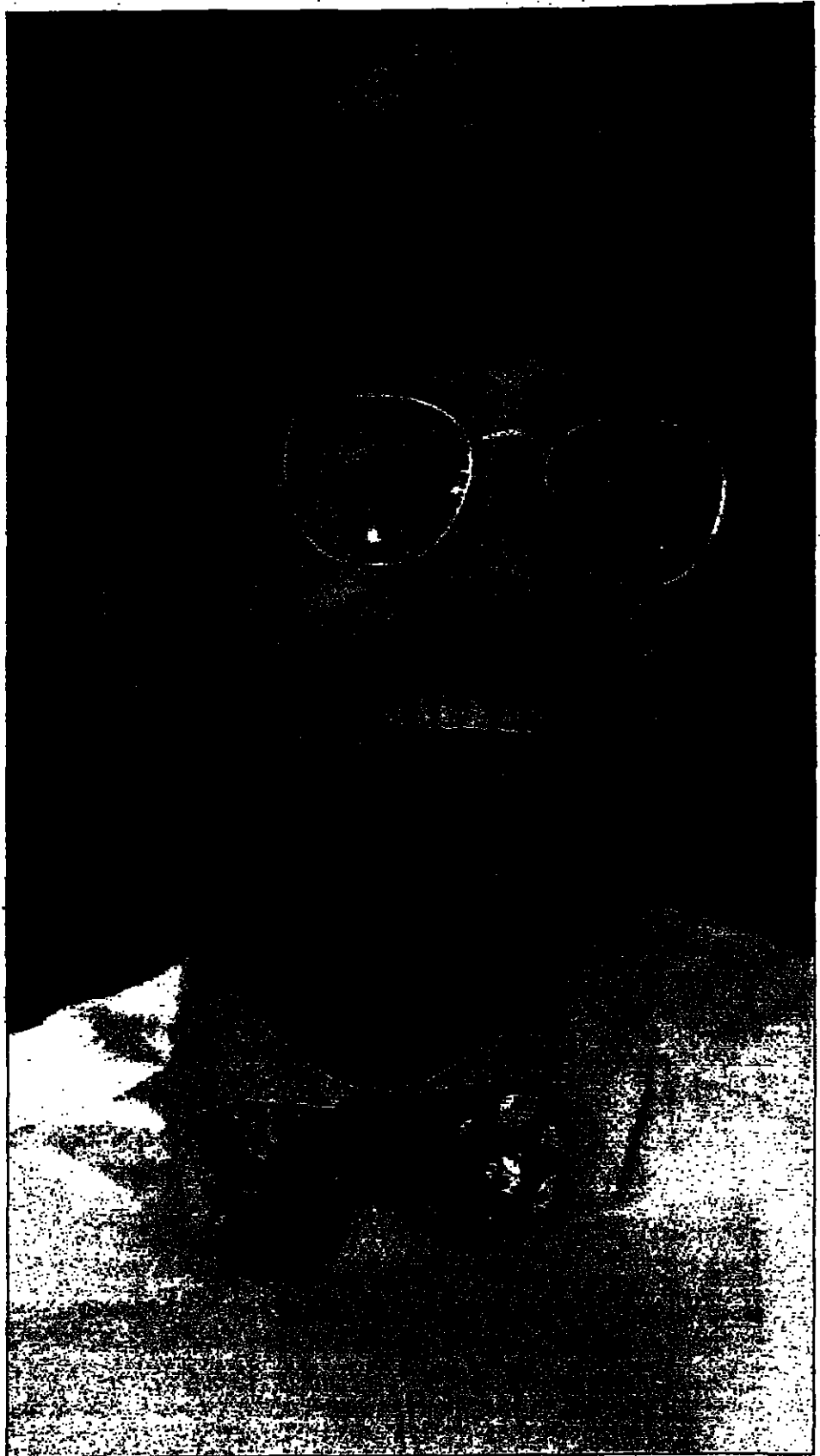
ries of unsolved corruption scandals, and, in particular, the murder of André Cools, the deputy prime minister, shot dead in Liège in 1991.

Claims of a cover-up in the Cools case threw new light on the murky underworld of Liège, in Francophone Belgium, where the Dutroux gang was also known to operate. Liège, with a large Italian population, is an outpost of Italian Mafia gangs.

The Cools inquiry has led to three high-level political resignations of Francophone Socialists since September. Both the Dutroux case and the Cools case have exposed the invidious nature of political patronage in Belgium throughout police forces and the judiciary.

Several commentators were unrestrained in detailing how Mr di Rupo liked to frequent gay bars in Brussels. "We believe it is particularly unjust and base to take against citizens solely because of their sexual preferences," said Michel Marteau in a commentary in *Le Soir*.

"In Belgium, as in nearly all countries, homosexuality is not



Eye of the storm: Deputy Prime Minister Elio di Rupo, who admits being homosexual but denies unsubstantiated reports of paedophilia

may be exploiting recent public disquiet to bring down the government by attacking Francophone politicians. The Flemish papers yesterday were unrestrained in detailing how Mr di Rupo liked to frequent gay bars in Brussels.

"We believe it is particularly unjust and base to take against citizens solely because of their sexual preferences," said Michel Marteau in a commentary in *Le Soir*.

"In Belgium, as in nearly all countries, homosexuality is not

a crime... Let's wait for justice to do its work."

In an effort to contain the latest upsurge of public anger, the Belgian parliament moved swiftly to launch a commission of inquiry, which will make a recommendation on whether Mr di Rupo's immunity from prosecution should be lifted. The Deputy Prime Minister could then face charges before the courts. Regional parliaments were also meeting to consider a committee of inquiry into the case of Mr Gaffe.

Bosnians remove minister to get US arms

Sarajevo (Reuters) - Kresimir Zubak, the President of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat Federation, has finally agreed to replacement of the federation's deputy defence minister, clearing the way for a massive shipment of US arms to the former Yugoslav republic, a US official said yesterday.

"Zubak informed the United States that he will sign the official order replacing deputy minister Hasan Cengic effective on Wednesday," said a State Department official speaking in Sarajevo.

The United States earlier refused to unload \$100m worth of military equipment bound for the federation army unless and until Mr Cengic, a Muslim, was removed from office because of his close ties with Iran.

The American Condor transport ship has been idling in the Adriatic Ocean for weeks, laden with tanks, helicopters, assault rifles, machine-guns, ammunition, tactical radios and other military equipment. A US special envoy James Pardew said the material could begin off-loading in the Croatian port of Ploce today, now the Cengic impasse has been resolved.

The federation's ethnic Croat defence minister resigned on Monday, after Cengic's allies in the Bosnian Muslim SDA party made it clear that they would only let him go if his Bosnian Croat counterpart resigned at the same time.

The game of threats and blackmail underlined the tension and suspicion bedevilling relations between the two ethnic communities in the federation, which was cobbled together largely under external, US pressure, in order to act as a counterweight to the well-armed, virtually independent Bosnian Serb entity.

Sarajevo (AP) - A Bosnian Serb man damaged his home by accident when he tried to fire a grenade at his wife, UN officials said yesterday. The incident in the northwestern town of Bijeljina was the climax of a domestic dispute that spilled out onto the street.

"The woman tried to flee the house but the husband followed her with a bazooka," said UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko. "He fired the bazooka at his wife, missed, and hit the house, causing serious damage." The man, Pero Tolic, is being held by police.

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Teenagers face death for baby's murder

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

A few months ago, their life was an American picture postcard — high-school sweethearts from the affluent New Jersey suburbs, bound for university, without a visible care in the world. Now that world has collapsed. She is in prison and he is on the run, wanted for infanticide and facing the death penalty.

Yesterday, police were searching for Brian Peterson, 18, who is charged with killing the newborn son he helped deliver in a Delaware motel room last Tuesday. The mother, Amy Grossberg, is already in prison, accused of the first degree murder of the infant, whose battered body was found in a dustbin at the motel. Meanwhile, half the country wonders how such a tragedy could have happened.

For everyone who knew them, they were a perfect couple. He was a school sports star beginning his first year at a private university in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Ms Grossberg, also 18, was, according to neighbours, a "dream daughter", a bright student with talent as an artist, who had just entered the University of Delaware.

There was, however, one problem: she was pregnant and eight days ago went into labour. As police reconstruct the story, Mr Peterson made the

three-hour drive to pick her up at her lodgings, and check in at a nearby motel. There, he helped deliver the baby, which he put in a plastic bag and dropped in a dumpster behind the motel. He then drove Ms Grossberg to her dormitory and returned to Gettysburg.

Mr Peterson has told investigators the baby was alive when it was abandoned. But on the strength of an autopsy which found the infant died of skull fractures caused by "blunt force trauma and shaking", prosecutors brought murder charges. The death penalty can be sought in cases in Delaware where the killing is intentional and the victim is under 14.

Their decision has prompted outrage, and accusations that the state is rushing to judgment before the facts are in. "This case is the result of children having children," said Murray Richman, president of New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

But despite the almost non-existent prospect of one ever being handed down, the Delaware deputy Attorney General, Peter Letang, seems determined to press ahead. "When a baby is put outside in cold weather, in addition to having head trauma," he said, "in our view that is intentional homicide."

Along with horror and pity, the dominant reaction has been



Sweethearts: Amy Grossberg and Brian Peterson at a high-school ball Photograph: AP

bafflement: Why, the press has asked, did the couple not seek help, offer the child for adoption or even arrange an abortion? No less of a mystery is how Ms Grossberg managed to carry her pregnancy to term, un-noticed by her family or friends.

The whole story might never have come to light had Ms Grossberg not developed post-natal complications. Back in her dormitory that same Tuesday evening, she collapsed and was rushed to hospital where she recounted what had happened. At

the same time, her boyfriend was confessing to a university counsellor in Gettysburg.

After initially deciding not to press charges, police at the weekend issued a warrant for Mr Peterson. When they went

to his father's house in Long Island where he was believed to be staying, they found it empty. His lawyers are said to be urging him to turn himself in, but by yesterday afternoon Mr Peterson still had not done so.

Dithering in Europe leaves Korea staring into nuclear abyss

Richard Lloyd Parry
Seoul

The fragile peace on the Korean peninsula, the world's last Cold War flashpoint, is in jeopardy if European governments fail to agree on a 15 million ecu (£11.5m) package to provide oil to the stricken government of North Korea.

European Commission officials are engaged in delicate negotiations with the Korean Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), a joint American-Japanese-South Korean body formed after a scare in 1994, when Pyongyang appeared to be developing nuclear weapons. A funding crisis has left KEDO on the edge of collapse and it has asked the Europeans for a 15 million ecu annual contribution in return for membership of the organisation.

But differences between European Union member states threaten to thwart the deal. And, without European money, KEDO officials fear it will fall apart, increasing the risk that Pyongyang will restart its nuclear programme and plunge the peninsula back into crisis.

KEDO represents the best hope in decades for peace on the peninsula. The organisation was born as a consequence of the Framework Agreement, signed in Geneva in 1994, which temporarily defused fears of a

nuclear confrontation. In spring that year, American spy satellites revealed that the North Koreans were stockpiling spent fuel rods from Soviet-made nuclear reactors. These had the potential for generating plutonium capable of being used in nuclear warheads. After months of negotiations, North Korea agreed to freeze their operations.

KEDO was formed to fulfil the other side of the bargain: the provision of safer, light-water reactors costing \$5bn (£3bn), to be paid for by South Korea and Japan. The Geneva accord also promised heavy fuel oil to tide the North over while the safe reactors are being installed.

The annual cost of the fuel shipments is around \$55m, of which \$25m has been approved by the US. Britain and Japan have made lesser contributions. But without more substantial participation by Europe, KEDO has little hope of fulfilling its obligations. And, last week, Pyongyang's official news agency threatened a restart to nuclear development if there were delays to the KEDO programme.

KEDO's troubles came at a time of increasing instability in Korea, which has been divided between the Stalinist North and the US-backed South since the end of the Second World War. With the collapse of the Soviet bloc, North Korea's economy plummeted. In 1995 the North

made an unprecedented appeal for foreign aid, raising hopes of dialogue. But Pyongyang refuses to talk directly with anyone but the US — which insists that any settlement must be reached between the two Koreas. Hopes were pinned on a proposal for four-way talks, including the two Koreas, the US and China — but these were dashed in September when a North Korean submarine ran aground in the South, while engaged on an apparent spy mission. The outrage this provoked in Seoul has jeopardised the Geneva agreement.

"We cannot keep the nuclear programme frozen any longer only to get heavy oil... with no importance given to when the light-water reactors will be provided," Pyongyang's news agency said last week, accusing the US of "breaking its promise" in "unilaterally" delaying the implementation of the agreement.

Pyeongyang will today close its liaison office in the demilitarised zone between the two countries in protest. "We're at a very tricky point, and the European contribution is very important to the whole thing," said one observer in Seoul yesterday. "It seems people have to be brought to the point where they're staring into the abyss before they make up their minds. We were close to the abyss in 1994, but people have forgotten that."

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Candid cameras catch agent snapping

Washington — The final piece of evidence against Harold James Nicholson came into focus for CIA spy catchers on November 12: Concealed cameras in his CIA office caught him kneeling under his desk photographing secret documents.

Four days later, FBI agents, who had been trailing and eavesdropping on him for months, arrested Nicholson at Washington's Dulles International Airport. He was charged on Monday with spying for Russia since June 1994.

CIA director John Deutch said the Nicholson case is not likely to be the last involving alleged spying by U.S. agents. "There will be other cases that involve the CIA. There will be other cases that involve other national security agencies."

Nicholson, 46, of Burke, Virginia, is the highest-ranking CIA officer to face espionage charges. The FBI suspects he sold the names of all new CIA trainee agents in the past two years, a breach of security that could jeopardize lives.

Among the evidence against Nicholson cited by the FBI was a computer disk containing a file with information on private individuals who often provide the CIA with information they gain on their travels.

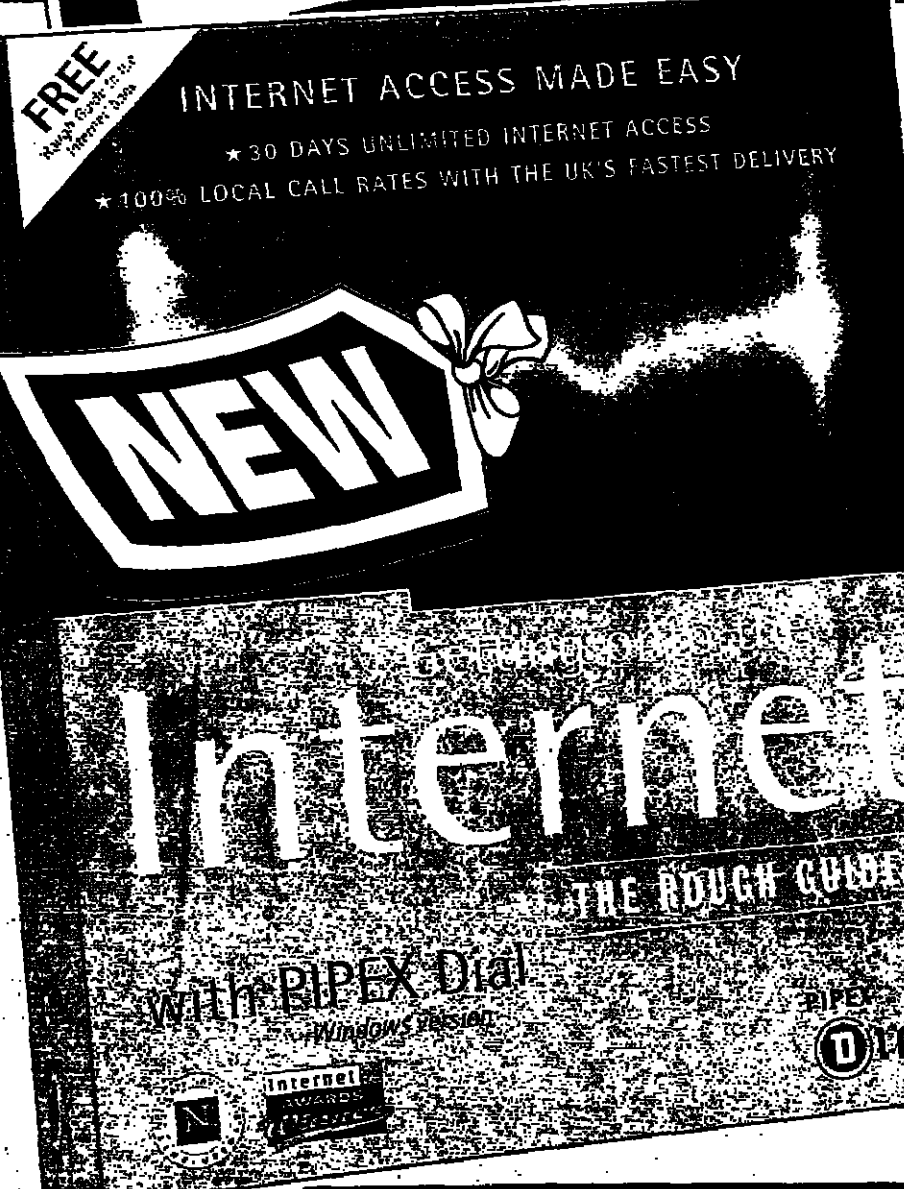
Deutch would not explain precisely what alerted the CIA to Nicholson. He said several pieces of evidence appeared at virtually the same time, including questionable answers on a routine lie-detector test in October 1995. The FBI said it detected a pattern of twice-yearly trips by Nicholson from 1994 to 1996 to Asia — where he allegedly met with his Russian "handlers".

Early this month an FBI search of Nicholson's office at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, found about 40 documents relating to Russia in a black folder on his desk. Some were classified "top secret," and some were at the higher "sensitive compartmented information" classification.

On 12 November, Nicholson asked for and received a CIA-issued document camera. He took it to his office, closed the door and placed the camera under his desk, according to the FBI affidavit.

He then took some secret documents from the folder, knelt on the floor and spent about 30 minutes photographing them. He did more that same evening and again on 13 November, the FBI said.

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EU sounds alarm at Belarus showdown

Phil Reeves
Moscow

Britain, France, Germany and Italy yesterday threw their weight behind growing condemnation of plans by President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus to press ahead with a referendum which would turn his nation into a near-dictatorship. They protested at the "illegal nature" of the poll in which he is seeking a constitution which would give him autocratic powers, including the right to appoint judges, top election officials, and many members of a new, two-chamber legislature. The protest, following expressions of alarm from the US, came as Belarus lumbered towards a showdown between the President and parliament and which has sent tremors from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

MPs, fearing Mr Lukashenko's security forces may close it, have been occupying parlia-

ment, in the capital, Minsk, since Friday. The Prime Minister, Mikhail Chigir, resigned in protest over the referendum.

Eighty MPs also signed a petition for the President's impeachment. Under the constitution (which Mr Lukashenko has a long record of ignoring), this must be approved by the Constitutional Court before going back to parliament, where it requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

While the West seethed, a more cautious expression of concern was issued by Russia, the key player in efforts to resolve the crisis. Moscow exerts great influence on the former Soviet republic, which depends on it for gas and oil. A Kremlin spokesman said President Boris Yeltsin and his Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, were "alarmed" and hoped "the art of political compromise will replace the ambitions and confrontations among politicians".

Officially, voting day is Sunday, although the result is viewed as a foregone conclusion unless the poll is cancelled and a compromise is found. For there are signs aplenty that the President has little regard for fair play. He has fired the head of the Central Election Commission, Viktor Gonchar, who complained of irregularities among thousands of absentee ballots already cast.

For months Mr Lukashenko has excluded opponents from the heavily censored state-run media while using it to advertise his cause.

If he wins, a confrontation with parliament seems inevitable but the outcome is unclear. He has the loyalty of his 1,500-strong presidential guard but the position of Belarus's KGB and armed forces is less easily predicted. "There is potential for this to blow up," a Western source said. "It would only take one spark to set every-

thing off." Last night parliament offered to abandon a second, parallel referendum which proposes the presidency be scrapped, if Mr Lukashenko dropped his. His response was unknown, but his posture to date is not encouraging.

He recently said it was too late to change his plans, and told opponents to be ready to flee if he won. His style has won him unfavourable publicity in the West, particularly when he complimented Hitler during a media interview.

Poland, Ukraine and the Baltic states have all shown signs of unease about their troublesome neighbour.

Nor are matters helped by the fact that Belarus still has 18 former Soviet SS-25 intercontinental missiles, which it is due - under international arms agreements - to return to Russia soon, but which it may seek to keep as bargaining tools.



Flagging support: A couple outside parliament in Minsk backing the MPs' stand

Photograph: AFP

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Castro and the Pope face up to better times

Anne Hanley
Rome

Fidel Castro did not kiss the Pope's ring but this minor detail was ignored in the emotion of the moment: the *lider maximo* had come to visit the *pontifex maximus*, opening up a new era in relations between the world's most powerful theocracy and one of its very few remaining communist states.

It was 10.45am yesterday when Castro's motorcade swept into the Vatican, and the Cuban leader was ushered up into the Pope's private apartments. A brief bow, a few words of greeting and John Paul II and Fidel disappeared into the library for talks which, the Vatican spokesman Joaquín Navarro Valls said, focused on "normalisation of the conditions under which the Catholic Church works in Cuba" and "national and international reconciliation".

Castro also issued an invitation to the Pope to visit his Caribbean island. The Pope accepted, and is now widely expected to add a Cuban stopover to his itinerary for a pastoral visit to Brazil in October next year. Yesterday's private audience was the culmination of several years of slow thaw in relations

between the Holy See and Cuba. After decades of hostility, and harassment by Cuban authorities of Catholic clergy and organisations, the two countries got down to serious dialogue in 1989. In 1992 Cuba changed its constitution to describe the island as a lay, rather than an atheist state.

Pope John Paul refrained from any of the embraces and handshakes that he often lavishes on visiting dignitaries

But it was not until last month, when the Vatican's "foreign minister" Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran met Castro in Havana, that a meeting between the Pope and the Catholic-educated Castro became a strong possibility.

Since his arrival in Italy four days ago for last week's World Food Summit, Castro has been locked with the Pope in what at times gave every appearance of

a competition to appear more conciliatory.

The Pope kicked these goodwill overtures off in his inaugural speech to the summit, lashing out at trade embargoes which bring hunger to innocent civilians. "The reference was clearly to US sanctions against Cuba which have been in place since 1962."

Castro, on the other hand, made sure that the press was well within hearing range when he stressed to Italian Premier Romano Prodi that "the revolution has created no martyrs amongst the men of the cloth".

In a meeting at the Italy Cuba Association, he confessed that "were I not a politician, I would take myself off to a monastery".

Despite the build-up, both Castro and the Pope betrayed no signs of great emotion when they finally met yesterday, and the Pope refrained from any of the embraces and lengthy handshakes that he often lavishes on visiting dignitaries. Details of contents of Castro's audience, and his ensuing meeting with Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, were, as is customary in the Vatican, kept a closely guarded secret, although it was not difficult to read be-



Gestures of goodwill: Pope John Paul II and the Cuban leader Fidel Castro meet at the Vatican yesterday. After their private talks in the papal library, the pontiff accepted an invitation to visit Cuba and is expected to add the island to his October visit to Brazil. Photograph: Reuters

tween the lines of the official version handed down by the Vatican Press office.

"Normalising the conditions under which the Church works in Cuba" refers to the severe restrictions placed on visiting clergy and on Catholic aid organisations working in Cuba.

In a Press briefing, Mr Navarro Valls placed great emphasis on the fact that an island with the population of 11 million, where Catholics represent some 97 per cent, has only 200 priests ministering to its spiritual needs.

"International reconciliation", on the other hand, is a

clear reference to Cuba's continuing difficult role on the world scene, and to the US trade embargo against it. Mr Navarro Valls claimed that the sanctions themselves were not explicitly discussed: "There was no need, and the Church's position was made perfectly clear

at the World Food Summit," he said.

"National reconciliation" would seem to cover human rights abuses in Cuba but Castro, during his visit, has been keen to stress that - in the case of Cuba at least - such concepts are firmly in the eye of the beholder.

In a meeting with Italy's Foreign Minister, Lamberto Dini, on Monday, Mr Castro listed "the many initiatives undertaken in defence of the individual and the citizen," and underlined that Cuba's electoral system "has the consensus of the majority of our citizens."

We'll set ourselves ablaze insist beauty protesters

Bangalore, India (Reuters) - An Indian woman again threatened to upstage Miss World's crowning moment by setting herself ablaze after a court said yesterday that the beauty pageant can go ahead. One man burnt himself to death last week to protest against the show, which opponents say offends women and Indian culture.

"My protests will be peaceful. By burning myself I will not be disrupting the show. We will go ahead with our earlier plan," Kina Narayana Shashikala, leader of the Mahila Jagran Samiti (Forum for Awakening Women), said, after a court rejected the group's petition to block the pageant.

The group had held its threat of self-immolation in abeyance until the court decision was known.

"We declined to ban the show," R.P. Sethi, the chief justice of the Karnataka High Court. "The state government should not prevent peaceful

protests."

Ms Shashikala has said several of her followers will join the 20,000 people expected to attend the Miss World crowning ceremony on 23 November and take cyanide pills before setting their silk saris ablaze.

Julia Morley, president of Miss World International said: "Obviously it is a very sad situation when somebody is prepared to do this without finding out what we are all about."

People attending events at the Miss World gala have been frisked by police, who confiscated cigarette lighters and bags.

In addition to a *de facto* ban on smoking, the court on Tuesday told pageant organisers that no alcohol should be served at the Chinnaswamy cricket stadium where the open air show is being held.

The finale is expected to be seen by two billion television viewers worldwide.

A protester against the

Michael Jackson concert in Bombay in late October also threatened to burn himself but was detained by police before he could commit suicide. Under Indian law, police can take people into custody as a preventive measure.

A police chief and senior court official were assigned by the high court to watch the beauty parade on Saturday to ensure there is no indecent exposure of bodies, nudity or obscenity. "Absolutely I agree with that wholeheartedly," Julia Morley said when informed of the ruling.

The ruling Janata Dal in Karnataka, which is Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's party, has supported Miss World coming to the state capital, which is known as India's "Garden City", but any politicians hoping for a free ticket can think again.

The court said that people in the state government will have to pay like anyone else.

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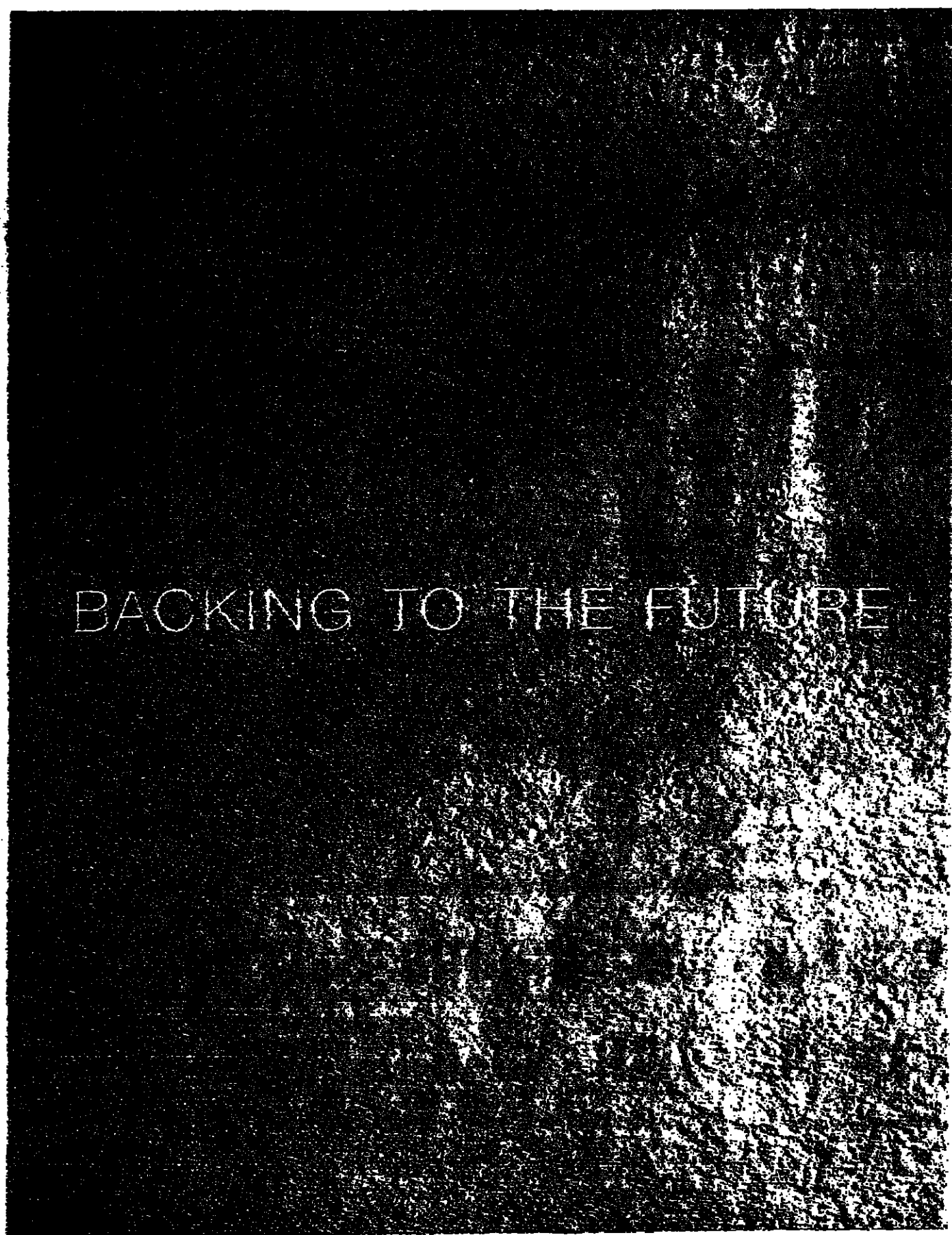
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Toothless unions don't need muzzling

New Tory proposals to shackle the unions further are unnecessary and – most important, in this season of electoral calculations – unlikely to reap a political reward. The Government's latest wheeze is to publish proposals, green, white and blue, and promise to legislate for them "in the next Parliament". This allows the machinery of Whitehall to be used to work up proposals that are effectively paragraphs from the draft Tory Party manifesto. Yesterday's addition to this suspect canon of governmental literature was a Green Paper proposing yet more trade union restrictions.

It is not worth wasting much time on the specific measures proposed, for one thing because much of the detail has yet to be filled in. Legal immunity is to be removed from industrial action that is "disproportionate or excessive" – for example, we are told, action carrying a risk to health and safety. Presumably that includes any strike action in the water or electricity industries? It is a measure of this Government's disconnection from proper priorities that it cannot see that the public is now much more concerned about inadequately regulated and greedy managers in the household utilities than about their shrinking numbers of employees.

The new proposals do stop short of banning industrial action in "essential services". And increasing to a fortnight the period of notice before industrial

action can be taken is not going to thwart determined employees. A lot of this Green Paper is political posturing. But it is a performance in vain.

Two decades ago British trade unions were an unmistakable symptom and causal agent of the British disease. The unions had power but no responsibility; public distaste for their role was underlined by the number of their members who voted for Mrs Thatcher in May 1979, and in subsequent general elections. During the Eighties trade unionism was exposed to restrictive Tory legislation, and the opening of the economy to brisk competition. Union membership shrank. Industrial power passed from shop floor to boardroom. Tripartism, Britain's variant on the corporatism practised successfully across post-war Europe, withered. The union barons became outlaws.

The other great change was the emancipation of the Labour Party from the unions which had given it birth. The movement began by Neil Kinnock, and now just about realised by Tony Blair, was needed long before the challenge of the Eighties. In spite of that, the unions took their time to move on out. But recently there have been welcome signs of union leaders reaching for their own, separate political destiny. Take the speech made on European monetary union yesterday by John Monks. It was in some ways an odd speech: does the TUC really buy the deflationary effects

of the Maastricht convergence criteria, with all that they imply not just for the jobs of state employees in member countries but for "social partnership" itself? Mr Monks doubtless has his reasons. But the symbolism of his taking a different line from Labour mattered more. This is how it should be. The TUC has to become more like the AFL-CIO in the US, anxious to secure the return of Democrats, surely, but resolutely distinct in organisation and aspiration.

Those changes have cleared the field not so much for a revival of trades unionism but for a renewed acceptance of the unions' role and opportunity. The



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British people – tomorrow's *British Social Attitudes* survey will doubtless confirm previous findings in this direction – have an ineffable sense of fairness. In spite of the Tories, they favour progressive taxation. They despise boardroom greed and the patent lack of merit in so many of the payments systems enjoyed by company directors. On the unions they broadly feel enough is enough – that the balance of power inside organisations either is just about right, or has maybe already shifted too far in the employers' direction. Intermittent action by Royal Mail staff and last summer's disruption on the railways

and the London Underground have not shifted this view. Those are not examples of resurgent Scargillism: we all know that is stone cold dead. It was the result of long years of bad management and bloody-minded and often politically-motivated union leadership.

Two core principles cover what is needed: a right to join a collective bargaining unit, and a right to take action against an employer in accepted circumstances. As a formula, common law immunity is anomalous, yes, but it still registers the public's wish for those at work to have some sanction to redress the inevitable imbalance of power between them and their employers. Labour has some useful ideas for smoothing the path of those wanting to organise. But there is no compelling case for more legislation controlling unions. Unions can only be as strong as their capacity to persuade and inspire. They will continue to attract members and find a role in some areas of employment, but they will struggle to sustain an active role in others. The shakedown of trades unionism in our society should now be allowed to follow a natural course; we don't need to meddle with it any further.

The Government's thinking about the future of the unions is on a par with its reaction to the 48-hour week – this one muddled because of the European connection. The best performing organisation commands not just the assent, but also the enthusiasm of its staff.

Trades unions, at best, can increase the difference between the cost of employment and organisational output. As collective bargainers, they can enhance the dignity and rights of individual employees. There are few economic sectors where unions can, as they once could, threaten the public interest. There will even be (rare) occasions when public inconvenience is a price the public is prepared to pay. The Government should stop living in the past; Labour should start talking about the future.

The wrong road to salvation

The Pope's excuse could be that he is enjoined by the Gospels and his stewardship of Peter's keys to welcome them all to the Vatican. But what is Fidel Castro's rationale for climbing the steps of St Peter's in order to smell the smoke of the people's opium? It is surely a bit late for priestly intercession for reprobate revolutionaries.

Cuba's future will not be resolved in Rome, or even on the streets of Havana. There is no future for this island separate from what the United States will approve or tolerate. This may not be a happy fact, but it is a geopolitical one. Cuba has more to come to terms with in Miami than in St Peter's Square.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Children let down by shift in fostering

Sir: Congratulations to Kenneth Redgrave for bringing to public notice some of the discrepancies of the social services (letter, 18 November). Having been a foster mother for 45 years, I have seen all the changes over the years.

When I first became a foster mother, you had a child and it stayed with you all through childhood, started a career, got married and brought the children to see their grandma. This is now completely impossible. The system is making the children angry and violent.

Children coming from homes because of neglect, cruelty or violence are put immediately with foster carers, instead of a period of training or rehabilitation. Often they are sent to inexperienced carers, and it breaks down. The older, more experienced carers are "thrown out", instead of being used to help and train the inexperienced (social workers do not have time for this).

Children are virtually cast out at 16. Lip service is paid to finding them accommodation, which they often cannot afford to maintain. That is why so many of these children are on the streets, sleeping rough or in prostitution, with no links to go back to, as in most cases fostering has only been a short-term affair.

These children get the blame for many things that they are the victims of, not the perpetrators. Raising the pay to carers is not the answer, even though the lowest pay is about 30p an hour. There is the insecurity of fostering: you are self-employed, with no rights, no pension, no paid holidays – though some local authorities are now addressing the holiday question.

When will the powers that be realise that things are getting worse and worse? The victims will be the children. They cry out for stability and a home life.

HELENA MORRIS
Wick, Hereford and Worcester

Sir: Kenneth Redgrave's letter on the child victims of failed foster care struck many chords.

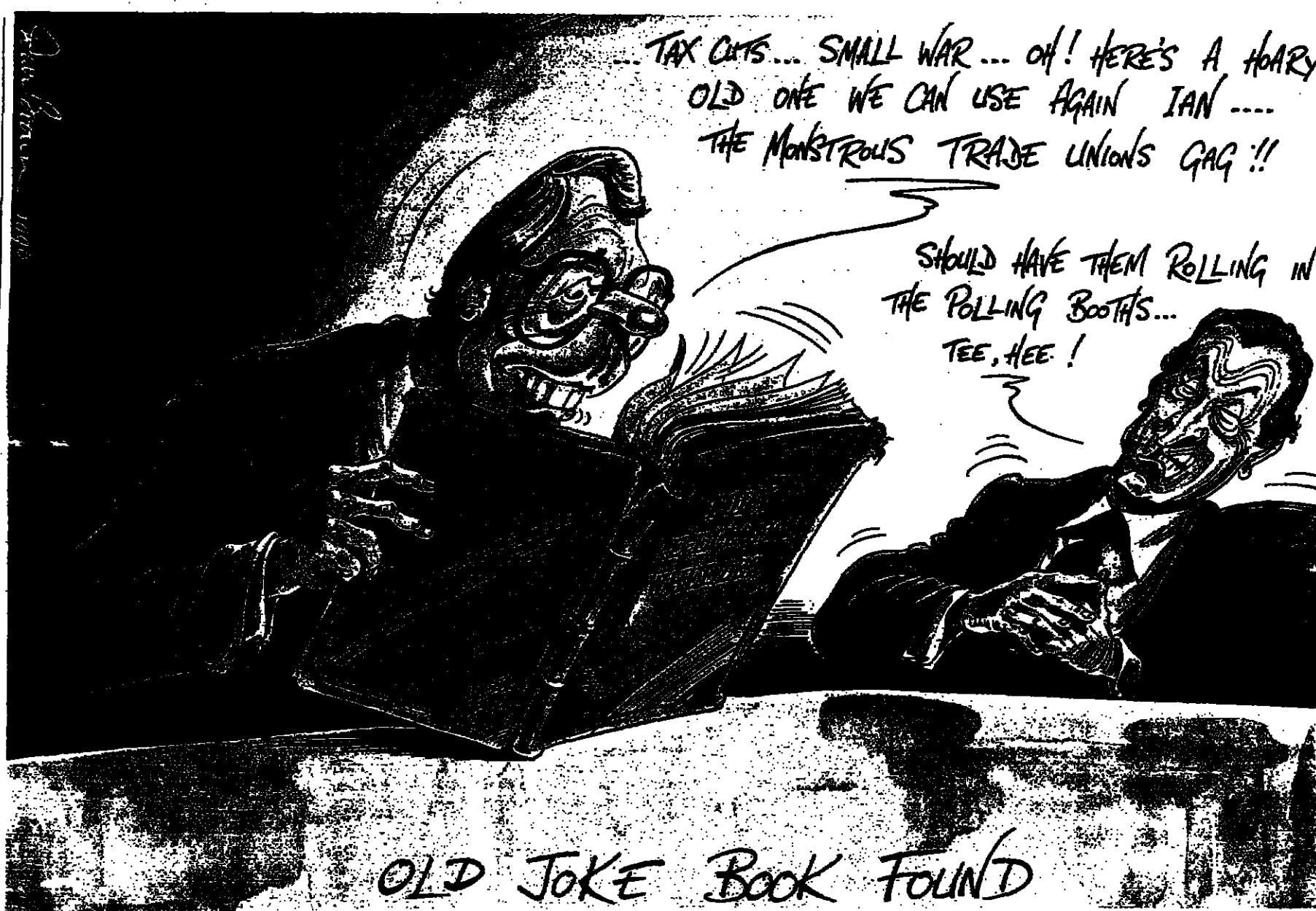
Foster care and residential care have indeed been seen as competitors, whereas the National Foster Care Association has always maintained that informed choices should be made for children following proper assessment of their needs. This assessment could be carried out while the child is living at home or in a short-term foster or residential setting, depending on individual circumstances.

We too believe that the time is right for a reappraisal of the services that are offered to children who come into the care of local authorities – and in particular a fresh look should be taken at how those who work with the children are helped and supported.

The majority of children being cared for are still placed with volunteers. Most do a wonderful job, sticking with children no matter what. But if a child-centred service is what is needed, it will necessarily make greater demands of carers: in these circumstances, can they continue to be wholly voluntary?

Isn't it time that we were in a position to require carers not to give up on placements, for the sake of the children? If that is the case, what rewards should they be offered?

We also believe that it is time to



look at the role of social workers and family placement workers, to see how they can provide children with a better service. If a child is placed in foster care, one way to help avoid placement breakdown is to give the placement worker responsibility for ensuring that carers are providing a quality service.

Any assessment and improvement of services for children will require adequate resourcing. Without a commitment from central government, the local authorities charged with providing these services will be unable to address what are clearly pressing needs.

PAT VERITY
National Foster Care Association
London SE1

Sir, On the one hand Kenneth Redgrave asserts that insufficient funding and training are responsible for the parlous state of child care by social service departments. But on the other he seems to blame those departments for that state of affairs.

A few years ago the social work profession wanted a three-year basic training, the Qualifying Diploma in Social Work. The Government said that was too expensive and opted for the two-year Diploma in Social Work, which we all agree is a basic qualification only. Further, it is the Government that restricts local authority spending by the standard spending assessment and capping for those who exceed it.

Mr Redgrave refers to the "careful planning and assessment which used to be available". In the present system a social worker can do all the assessment possible but at the end has to accept whatever is available, very often something

entirely unsuitable. A full inquiry certainly, but let us not start by blaming the social workers who "admit" – as though they are guilty of something – that their specialist training is defective. Very often the recently qualified are the only ones available.

ROBERT CAMERON
Romsey, Hampshire

Wild talk from Jewish leader

Sir: Mr Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, describes the assimilation of Jews into the wider community as a "silent Holocaust" ("US Jews fear Israel is casting them adrift", 16 November). This is not the first time such a comparison has been made.

Before its currency becomes general, even in a small circle of Jewry, the horrific implications of such a remark should be made clear. For a child of mixed marriage (my father was Jewish), it is implied that my life and those of my children are so worthless that they may as well have been disposed of by state violence.

My cousins, who were murdered by the Nazis on account of being Jewish, must have their suffering likened to the life of a Gentile raised in peace and prosperity. It is ironic that this supreme insult to the victims of the Holocaust should come from a man who claims to be a Jewish leader.

ROWLAND NELKEN
Colson Bassett, Nottinghamshire

Snags of Hansard voting system

Sir: While it is true, as stated by Miles Hudson (letter, 18 November), that the additional MPs selected under the Hansard Report system would not be placed nominated by their political parties, there are other constitutional problems.

The intention is that they should serve their party's voters regionally or nationally. However, they will be their party's best loser in a single-member constituency and will clearly have a particular interest in cultivating the voters of that constituency.

It was the high percentage vote in that constituency which helped elect them. Some constituencies might find themselves with three MPs if a minor party candidate polled well there.

There are already reports that the additional members in New Zealand are taking a much closer interest in the single-member constituencies where they stood but were defeated, even though the allocation is not done on the basis of best losers, but by a national list.

In any case the additional member system does not correct the other defects of the single-member system.

If the voters are to have a choice of candidate within the party of their choice, be it according to age, gender, left wing, right wing, ethnicity or religious confession and the power to replace

incumbent members of their party found wanting, it is necessary to elect more than one MP to represent a constituency, as noted in your leader of the 11 November.

E.M. SYDDIQUE
Chief Executive
Electoral Reform Society
London SE1

Parliament needs business people

Sir: There is of course a third way of looking at Steven Norris's appointment as head of the lorry-owners' trade association (leader, 18 November).

Before entering Parliament, Mr Norris was a successful businessman working within the transport sector.

On leaving Parliament he is to return to that world. In the interim he brought considerable expertise and understanding to a key brief, that of transport minister with responsibility for London, and at a fraction of the salary he would have earned outside.

To describe such a career path as "irresponsible" sends a clear message to the few business people of real talent to enter politics. If you have an area of real understanding, make sure you do not accept a ministerial post through which you could make that understanding available for the benefit of the country.

You will be vilified for, and

maybe even prevented from, returning to that field after your years of public service.

The scandal is not what Mr Norris does next: it is that our political system could not keep the likes of him, Tim Eggar and others, in government. Attitudes such as yours can only underline the question that many of true talent must ask themselves when considering entering, or remaining in, politics: why bother?

MALCOLM C GRIMSTON
London SW17

Cooking lobsters without torture

Sir: Annie Bell's article (Magazine, 16 November) on ways of dispatching live lobsters rightly condemns the barbaric practice of plunging them into boiling water. Among the few alternative methods she considered there was no mention of the one advocated by Philip Harben (*The Grammar of Cookery*, 1965).

"By immersing a live shellfish in water at cooking temperature you kill it and cook it in one operation. But... to plunge a lobster or a crab, living, into boiling water is to torture it. Crabs shed claws (a sure sign of terror in the crab) and lobsters scramble desperately up the side of the pot."

"This is the way to do it. Pour mildly tepid water – not cold or hot – over the live fish. This stuns it. Bring the water rapidly towards the boil, and the lobster will die before recovering consciousness – not a flicker of a whisker."

ROGER MAYLOR
Sunderland

No nightmares on my farm

Sir: The subtitle to your article "Man and beast" by Danny Penman (18 November) stated that "broken legs, cannibalism, heavy usage of drugs and constant agony is life for the average British farm animal".

I am a modern average British farmer on a modern average British farm; I keep average farm animals and could not recognise this nightmare that Dr Penman would have us believe is life for the average British farm animal.

The writer ignores the Farm Assurance Livestock Schemes, which are now an important part of modern British stock-keeping. Their primary aim is stock welfare through all stages from farm to butcher. Britain is leading the world in its welfare schemes and laws.

Dr Penman's insinuation that one quarter of British cattle are fed illegal drugs is nonsense. Feed ingredients have to be declared by law. If he has proof to the contrary he should prosecute, with our blessing.

He also fails to realise that the death of so many lambs at lambing time is due to nature – not any mortal's fault but a rather nasty fact of life and death on a farm. Would he rather the farmer played God and changed the weather?

Animal welfare is a very serious matter. Average British farmers take the lives of their animals very seriously. They have to. Their livelihoods depend on it. Dr Penman should visit an upland stock farm; he might be agreeably surprised by what he finds.

ROBERT CARR
Melrose, Roxburghshire

Rind robins

Sir: With reference to your conundrum about bacon rind for birds (letter, 13 November), most birds common to the British garden are unaccustomed to consuming animal fat. The salt in bacon is in a concentration unlikely to be consumed naturally by, for example, a sparrow or tit.

However, bacon rind has been discovered in the nests of some birds, where it has also had the benefit of transferring grease to the plumage of young birds, thus affording valuable waterproofing.

NATHAN SMEDLEY
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Music of menace

Sir, I was puzzled by the reference in the article on the demise of *Mastermind* (15 November) to the type of tension which the "sinister" title music was apparently intended to create. This is described as the "tension of a Nazi war camp". There are many types of tension on offer, and I cannot think why the sort referred to should be the one that was supposed to spring to mind. I defy any viewer to write in claiming that the music ever made them think of the Nazis.

Professor DAVID HEAD
Department of Modern Languages
University of Northumbria at Newcastle

In uniform at 14

Sir: With regard to youthful enlistment in war (Letters, 13 and 16 November), a friend of mine ran away from school and celebrated his 15th birthday as an infantryman in Salonika in 1917. At that stage of the war, recruiting sergeants were not particular: "If you were warm, you were in."

KENYON ALEXANDER
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

essay

"A and this also," said Marlow suddenly, "has been one of the dark places of the earth."

Thus, on the River Thames, begins a story that is one of the most compelling and influential works of English literature in the last century: Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. It is the story of Marlow's journey through the jungles of the Belgian Congo to find the mysterious Kurtz, a colonial figure of mythic status who has gone mad, acquiring power and influence over the natives while losing his own mind in the process. It is an account of the descent of a Westerner into savagery as he encounters Africa, of a man who has lost his moral bearings deep in the jungle.

A tale of colonial adventure in what is now Zaire has obvious relevance as foreign forces prepare to arrive in that benighted country to deliver humanitarian assistance. But it is not quite the message that a casual reading of the story would give us, the reading that is pressed upon us by those who see in central Africa's problems merely humanity gone mad. A message is being sent when the phrase "heart of darkness" is casually banded around: that Africa is irreducibly and savagely, the dark continent, a place where light and civilisation (a Western preserve) can never penetrate. Conrad's work, and the casual use of its title to refer to bloodshed and war, has become an icon of Western attitudes towards the Third World, and Africa in particular, a supporting argument from art for the thesis that parts of the Third World are mad, bad and dangerous to know, and irretrievably so.

But it is not so; and a careful look at Conrad, and the background to his novel, reveals far more than casual racism or the careless perpetration of stereotypes. As Conrad knew, when we stare into the darkness we are looking into our own hearts.

The story was first printed in *Blackwoods Magazine* (a dark irony itself, the title of the publication). It is about the hypocrisy inherent in colonialism, and the violence it begets. Marlow, a sea-captain, is given the mission in the first place because his predecessor has been killed after he savagely attacked an African chief in an argument over two hens. "He had been a couple of years already out there engaged in the noble cause, you know, and he probably felt the need at last of asserting his self-respect in some way," comments Marlow, laconically.

He is told that Kurtz is a prodigy, "an emissary of pity, and science, and progress, and devil knows what else." Kurtz has written an eloquent report for the International Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs. Yet this is also a man who can say: "Exterminate all the Brutes!" And when he finds him, Kurtz is gone, dying, his soul already lost: "The wilderness had found him out early." He is no longer the mythic figure that Marlow has sought, just a sad and broken man dying from fever.

Conrad's story is about the clash between the colonial ideal, the *mission civilisatrice*, and the reality: enslavement, murder, plunder and disaster. The subject is colonial hypocrisy, not African madness. He locates it in Africa, and in the Congo, I suspect, both because he had been there and because Congo was not British. It was Belgian. Conrad (Polish by birth) apparently did not wish to antagonise his British readers. For the book is at least partly about Britain, and British colonialism (Kurtz is half-English, half-French). Conrad softened his message, but it is always there, nudging gently at our conscience.

He starts his book on the misty Thames just down the river from *The Independent's* office, not on the Congo; and this strain runs throughout the book, seeping through in references to the Romans in Britain, to Drake (the subject of a critical article in *Blackwoods*), and to Sir John Franklin (whose expedition to the North-West Passage ended in disaster, and in cannibalism).

At the centre of Conrad's book is the appalling spiritual contradiction faced by those who left Europe for Empire, taking with them the belief that



wrecked by industrialisation and dared to pose the question: "As there is a darkest Africa, is there not also a darkest England?" Britain was about to plunge into the Boer War, where concentration camps were pioneered. Within 20 years, the whole of Europe was to be plunged into a savage and bloody war to rival anything the world had ever seen, barbed wire running from Belgium to Switzerland, poison gas drifting across the plains of northern France, the corpses piled up across the continent.

All of this is just below the surface as Marlow finishes his traveller's tale, and the boat drifts on the Thames. "The offering was barred by a black bank of clouds," the narrator says, "and the tranquil waterway leading to the uttermost ends of the earth bowed and overcast sky seemed to lead into the heart of an immense darkness."

they were going to do good. Nowhere was this belief more prevalent than among the Britons who set out for Africa, India or Asia. Yet the idealism was inevitably contradicted by the brutality that they found themselves indulging in, a brutality that they could not bear to countenance. Faced with their own descent into violence, they often took refuge in a belief that this was, somehow, not happening, or that they had no choice in the matter. The men of empire, writes Kathryn Tidrick in her book *Empire and the English Character*, were forced into this denial of violence "not only because they had moral reservations about physical coercion but because they believed that they were blessed with attributes of character which enabled them to prevail without it."

Out of this psychological contradiction, and its unsustainability, comes Kurtz's madness. Tidrick's book is full of good men who found this hypocrisy hard to bear, and who were led as a result to brutality, madness, or both.

Certainly, Conrad did not have far to look to find examples. He draws heavily upon the career of the journalist Henry Morton Stanley, author of *In Darkest Africa*, for whom the search for a story led to exploration, and then to involvement in the events he described. After his famous meeting with Livingstone, Stanley moved on to the service of the Belgian King Leopold, who ran Congo as his personal fief under the cover of the International Association for the Exploration and Civilisation of Africa. Stanley was widely regarded in Britain as a freebooter and a thug. "He has no concern with justice, no right to administer it; he comes with no sanction, no authority, no jurisdiction - nothing but explosive bullets and a copy of *The Daily Telegraph*," wrote *The Saturday Review*.

There are obvious modern parallels. Francis Ford Coppola's sprawling film masterpiece, *Apocalypse Now*, is based on Conrad's novel. It expresses the yawning gap between the ideals behind American intervention in Vietnam and the reality, and the inability of either Marlow (now a young Special Forces captain) or Kurtz (a colonel in the Green Berets) to bridge that gap. This is a war where, as Kurtz puts it, young men may drop fire on people from their helicopters, but they cannot write the word "Fuck" on their helmets; where, as Marlow puts it, soldiers can cut

someone in half with a machine gun and then give them a Band-Aid. But if Coppola associated Vietnam with Conrad, it is not hard to think of other areas of the world where the "international community" has intervened, only to find itself condoning, or even supporting, brutality. Think of the Dutch marines, tasked to defend the people of Srebrenica in Bosnia, but in effect allowing the town to fall to Serbs who would massacre thousands. Think of the Canadian paratroopers in Somalia, torturing two of the people they had been sent to feed.

If, when we look at the tragedy in Zaire, we simply see a caricature of tribal clashes and jungle savagery, then we see false. The roots of today's struggles, deaths and disasters in central Africa lie in the deadly encounter of Europe with Africa. It was Belgium and France that created the state structures of Zaire, Burundi and Rwanda; emphasised the "ethnic" differences that now fuel genocide; drew the boundaries; and decided who would rule whom. In Zaire, it is not just the Hutu militias from Rwanda that bear the blame for the crisis: it is the Western-dominated UN Security Council, for ignoring them until it was (almost) too late; and it is those who armed and supplied the forces on the ground (which appears to have been almost everyone). And in Zaire, crumbling rapidly now that the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko is all but over, who was it that provided the cash to prop up a corrupt regime? Who supplies the weapons to the rebels who seek to overthrow it? Who flies the transport planes, sells the rifles, feeds the constant wars for resources and influence throughout Africa? Is it any surprise that the French are seen as far from neutral, with their history of involvement in the Hutu-Tutsi antagonism, or the British suspect, with their background in the area?

The darkness that Conrad saw was not in Africa; it was in the hearts of the colonialists themselves, those men who travelled from far away with their high hopes and saw them fade into their worst fears. Nor was it just colonialism; there is a *fin de siècle* pessimism, a sense of doubt about Europe itself and its "civilised" values that pervades the book. This, too, is bound to strike a chord with us as we head towards the end of our bloody century.

Conrad was writing at the end of the 19th century, when the ideas of progress, faith in science and rationality were ebbing. A few years before, William Booth, founding the Salvation Army, had seen the human destruction.

Heart of prejudice

No one better described the encounter with Africa of European adventurers, explorers and colonialists than Joseph Conrad. Andrew Marshall shows how he unveiled the attitudes that still blind us to the realities of Rwanda and Zaire

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Answers please, to mysteries of our time



Miles Kingston

Today we present Ten Great Mysteries of Our Time!

1. We all know, because we have been told so many times, that the future of communications is going to fall into the hands of one man.

The mystery is: why can nobody make up their minds whether it is going to be Rupert Murdoch or Bill Gates?

2. If shooting is such an integral part of sport, the mys-

tery is why combat knife fighting isn't an Olympic event as well.

3. As things stand at the moment, the number of children who are shot every year, by madmen or normal people, is very small. A dozen or so. Perhaps two dozen in a Dunblane year.

The number of children run over and killed by cars and lorries every year is very large, running to hundreds, even thousands.

There is great pressure to get guns banned, in order to prevent them falling into the hands of another madman, who might create another Dunblane.

There is no pressure at all to get cars banned, even though they are well known to cause much higher levels of death to children, and even though a car is a much more effective weapon of death than a gun.

It is sometimes said that a car in the hands of a madman cannot do as much damage as a gun in the hands of a madman. This is true. It is not the problem, however. What worries people is not the damage

a car driven by a madman can do. It is the damage which a car driven by a normal person can do. Many more children are run over by normal citizens than are shot (or run over) by madmen.

But nobody tries to ban cars.

Or control normal citizens.

Why not?

It's a mystery.

4. Now that Chile and South Africa have spent their season in the limelight as the newly fashionable wine-producing country, in the wake of Bulgaria, Australia, New Zealand, etc, etc, there any wine-producing country left which hasn't had its hour of discovery and triumph?

5. Once every five years politicians have to take notice of what the public thinks, because at a general election the public can pass judgement on them. This is hard for politicians, because as a general rule they despise the public and do not respect what they think, even though they say the opposite. They say: "The man in the street is no fool", even though they privately think that the man in

the street is an idiot. As the election comes closer, the party in power prepares little tax cuts and little sweeteners for the electorate in the belief that the public is fool enough to forget the last few years of misrule and vote them back in again.

The mystery, however, is not whether the public actually is an ass or not.

The mystery is why on earth politicians want to be voted back in again.

6. Never have two jolly people laughed so much as Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright in *Two Fat Ladies*.

But what were they laughing at?

7. When the National Lottery first appeared, a statistician said, of the chances of winning, that if a casino offered the same odds, it would be closed down.

The mystery is: why do people buy lottery tickets?

8. We are often told that women are afraid to go out by themselves late at night in cities, because it is dangerous, ie because they might be attacked by men. Women are

therefore warned not to go out by themselves late at night in cities.

But women are not causing any trouble.

It is men who are causing trouble.

The mystery is: Why is it not men who are banned from going out late at night in cities?

9. A red-faced BBC is still worrying why *Rhodes* seems to have been such a total turn-off for the audience, even though all that money was spent on it, and they even got that sex chap from *Drop The Donkey* to star in it.

Has it occurred to them that when 90 per cent of the audience switch on a programme called *Rhodes*, they are going to expect to see a young chef showing them how to cook, and will switch off again when he's not there?

10. Who, over the age of 13, actually looks forward to Christmas?

If anyone knows the answer to any of these, or to the mystery of whether Greg Propp is related to Marjo Propp, please get in touch, though not necessarily with me.

It's going to be close, and only you know how close

I would have noticed: the Cabinet minister who preceded me out of the restaurant had not slipped a tenner to the waiter. But the waiter swivelled as the Tory left and hissed, "Good luck to you on Thursday - whichever Thursday it is". Over lunch, the minister had been explaining why he thought the Tories could well win the election. I had listened politely, credulity suspended by the forkload.

But in the taxi back, the waiter's offhand comment reverberated. Conventional wisdom says that the polling gap is too large and too long for the Tories to really recover. Comfortable, liberal-minded Britain knows that the banal argument, "time for a change", is now irrefutable. In much of the City and the media, people have already made the mental adjustment: Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson are almost in power.

The problem, of course, is that conventional wisdom is so often foolish: that what liberal-minded Britain considers irrefutable has been so often refuted, and that the City and my profession are such bad futurologists.

Perhaps there is too much hidden superstition in my argument. But there it is. The feeling lurches. Can it be justified at all? Evidence of Labour's invincibility is based, of course, on the polls, which have shown a huge and consistent Opposition lead. This is the scientific age. Polling is practised with scientific seriousness. Pollsters gather in conferences, exchange information and discuss techniques. Often, they have been remarkably accurate. Their authority comes from their record, which was dented in 1992 but not demolished.

Yet polling is not science. It is asking questions and hoping for truthful answers. In the past, some of these answers haven't been - that is more or less common ground.

We believe that an unknown proportion of Tory voters lied to pollsters about their intentions. We strongly suspect that among those who refused to answer there were more Conservatives. We know that some recent polls overstate the anti-Tory vote: one highly-publicised one included another question about how people voted in 1992, which demonstrated pretty conclusively that Neil Kinnock won and has therefore presumably been in power for years. (It's just that nobody's noticed yet.)

My point is only that if people both dislike the Conservatives and also suspect that they may vote for them, noses pinched, to preserve a modest but long-established recovery, that behaviour would be peculiarly difficult for pollsters to tease out. This is not a frank country. These voters will feel ambiguous, perhaps confused, even ashamed. And if they haven't quite confessed to the bathroom mirror, they are unlikely to tell a pollster.

Though he didn't discuss the polls, this is essentially what my lunch guest thought was happening. He summed up the general mood



Andrew Marr

Forget polls. The election will be decided by ambiguous, confused, even ashamed voters

as general fed-upness with his party, combined with a sneaking, half-resentful acknowledgement that things were getting better, and the Government might be partly responsible. I suggest that quite a few people feel that way.

Then there is "agenda slide", a new term which describes the difference between what the political classes are interested in - sleaze, constitutional questions, Brussels, intra-party divisions, hairstyles - and what the rest of the country cares most about - prosperity, safety, the environment and so on. The political agenda connects with the popular one via the media. At times they can seem virtually identical: sleaze dominates the headlines; Tory popularity sinks further. Ergo - the whole country thinks alike.

Except - or it doesn't. However angry voters are about those headlines, they may regard them as only semi-serious - Westminster as farce - and actually vote on the basis of a subtly different agenda. If so, the more froth and turmoil in the papers about politics, the harder pollsters will have to search for slowly hardening convictions based on another, almost subliminal agenda.

These are, granted, impressions, not hard facts. But for me, they add up to a conviction that the election remains a closer call than many assume. It is the economy, stupid. But it is also politics, stupid. The choice is big. The game is wide open, and the rougher, hungrier set of politicians will win.

For the Tories, that means rediscovering discipline, and hiding their deep splits, while grabbing as much credit as possible for the recovery and painting Labour, in traditional fashion, as profligate and anti-patriotic federalists. If middle England, in particular, is feeling a touch more secure and prosperous, then even Blair could be made to seem a risk. These are genuinely conservative folk.

For Labour, it also, unavoidably, means the politics of fear - attacking the Conservatives as a party that now wants, in its heart, to leave Europe altogether (note how the word "renegade" has become a suddenly fashionable battlecry for the right).

It also means a far more aggressive approach to the social agenda and political reform than we have heard yet; Blair needs some raw roughhouse politics to help him escape from the Cassandra-style, bitching and trivia of recent weeks. If it isn't time for a real change, it won't be time to vote the Government out.

I still think Labour's job the easier one and in the end, if they fight hard, that they are likely to win. But this is a secretive, private nation. And in the past few weeks, there seems to me to have been a change in the mood, a sort of tremor in the air before the weather changes. In politics as elsewhere, it looks like a long and changeable winter.

If crime is a disease then this is the cure

On a visit to the erudite research department of the Home Office, I asked them the only question that matters: what works to stop crime? Is it prison? Well, yes, up to a point, they said. (This is the Home Office, after all.) If you increase the prison population by 25 per cent, you do get a 1 per cent drop in crime. But that is ruinously expensive, so I asked what else might work. Nursery schools, they said - and pushed a piece of research across the table to me.

This research has been knocking around for years. Everywhere you go, at education and crime conferences, you will hear it quoted. It knocks the breath out of people who have never seen it before. It knocks the socks off most other causes-of-crime research because it is such a thorough piece of sociology.

The HighScope Perry Preschool Study took a group of three- and four-year-olds from the poorest, most crime- and drug-ridden neighbourhoods in Michigan. It divided them in two. One lot got two years' intensive nursery education, the other didn't. Researchers then tracked all of the original group through the rest of their lives. (They are now nearly 40.) The difference between those who had the two years' special nursery education and the group that didn't is phenomenal.

The project started in 1962 in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The latest check when the group was 27 found these results: the HighScope children have half as many criminal arrests as the control group; they earn far more; nearly three times more own their own homes, marry and stay married longer; 20 per cent fewer have ever been on social security. They will be traced and monitored again when they reach 40 - if the project's founder, David Weikart, can raise the funds, because all along he has struggled to get the money to keep monitoring these children. Everyone likes the results, no one wants to pay. What's new? Sociology is a pitifully poor relation of, say, health research and yet we want to know as many social answers.

David Weikart was in London this week visiting a British version of the HighScope project, largely funded by Barnados and National Children's Homes, who use the methods for their nursery schemes in deprived areas. Of course we are suspicious of American gurus peddling magic systems. But Weikart is a modest and



A nursery programme in a deprived area in the US demonstrates how to keep adults out of jail. Polly Toynbee talks to its founder

moderate man who eschews jargon. An educational psychologist by training, he devised the HighScope approach for children who have had too little attention at home. He says his method makes little long-term, measurable difference to children with good parents.

Starting from the premise that these children come from chaotic, unpredictable households, HighScope teaches them how to think, analyse and structure their time - "Plan, Do, Review". Weikart is fighting a rear-guard action against the current reactionary fashion for more Chalk and Talk, more Sit Up and Shut Up teaching. What they learn hardly matters at all, he says. It does not last

and it makes little impact on their future. Learning to think about what they are doing is what makes the difference to the rest of their lives.

Weikart's studies show that children who have a heavily academic nursery education emphasising the three Rs do far less well in the long run than those who have been taught ways of thinking rather than content. (Though any nursery schooling helps.) The trick is to make each child plan, think about and describe each activity they choose to do. The success of the scheme also depends on bringing parents into the project, with at least 20 home visits a year.

Weikart is scathing about the

importance of IQ tests. HighScope improves the children's IQ score by some 25 points, as they enter primary school. But by the age of 10, the HighScopers and those with no nursery education all have the same average scores. Yet the HighScopers go on to do spectacularly better. Whatever IQ is, he does not find it a useful predictor of the qualities needed for social stability in later life.

So for several decades we have had these results to mull over. What effect has it had? Weikart smiles wryly. Intensive nursery education is still only patchily provided. "But Michigan is building two new prisons every year instead, and has plans to keep building them

indefinitely." Prison building is eating up all other budgets progressively, as it will in Britain, even though every dollar spent on HighScope children saved 37 later in their lives on crime and welfare. In Michigan, which funded the initial programme, 3,000 children are in HighScope when, he estimates, some 25,000 severely deprived children a year are in need of it.

Governments have no idea of economic planning when it comes to social projects, Weikart says. "If a company wants to build a new hotel, they don't wait until they have saved that money. They go out and borrow it, knowing they will make profits to pay the money back. The same is true of nurseries and other preventative schemes. Borrow to invest now and reap the profits later. But they refuse to think that way."

Social problems are never treated like health problems. If some new medical cure arrives, even at great expense for a small number of sufferers, the NHS gives in to the clamour to provide it. But when the solution is not medical but social, the policy-makers simply ignore it. That is partly because there is rarely anything like the same social evidence extensively gathered to bolster arguments for new medical treatments. Most good social schemes only just manage to scrape together funds for the project itself, living hand to mouth from year to year, with no extra money for long-term monitoring of results.

But if we were to redefine crime as a disease, we would think about it in a more constructive, problem-solving way. Imagine if mighty Royal Colleges with highly paid and distinguished consultants were in charge of curing various social sicknesses. Imagine a whole great establishment devoted to rooting out the causes of crime, researching the epidemiology and the cost effectiveness of various treatments with all the grandeur, status and funding we give physical illness - then we might make some progress.

Since people are as worried about crime as they are about health, a gigantic crime-busting social package should be Labour's priority for its manifesto. And the Tories, too, for that matter. Politicians have made nursery pledges in the past but not focusing on the need for expensive, intensive programmes for those children who are most likely to cost society dear in the future. But to do that would take borrowing or taxing now to invest wisely for long-term savings.

Life's no joke in the lawyers' chamber of horrors

What do you call 1,000 lawyers at the bottom of the ocean? A good start. What's the difference between a dead lawyer on the road and a dead rat? The dead rat has skid marks in front of it. Why can lawyers swim in shark-infested waters without danger of being eaten? Professional courtesy.

And so the jokes go on and on. The legal profession has spawned a comedy industry. There are 70,000 pages of this poisonous wit on the Internet, all marks of public contempt for m'learned friends. And how they're hurting. Yesterday, Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions, faced with accusations that the solicitors she employs are miserable, offered an intriguing insight into more general trouble in chambers. Her report amounted to a claim that since most lawyers are miserable, we shouldn't be too surprised if a few in her own legal corner, the Crown Prosecution Service, are also off colour. Some 80 per cent of solicitors in private practice are looking for a new job, Ms Mills told Radio 4's *Today* programme.

A nation choked on its muck. How can it be that a profession apparently living on blank cheques can be in the doldrums? We never realised that the hedgewed were so unhappy and such sensitive beings. (Why is it that many lawyers have broken noses? From chasing parked ambulances.) Have we, perhaps, been going a bit too far with the acid humour?

Apparently so, according to *The Lawyer*, a weekly newspaper, which polled its readers in the summer and found that 63 per cent of the respondents thought lawyers had a negative public image. Nearly nine out of 10 thought the profession was less respected than 20 years ago.

How is it that lawyers have come to be regarded as low life, sunk, as they are, down there with journalists and politicians in the public's esteem? "It's mainly the fees. There is a really negative feeling about paying lawyers that doctors, for example, don't get," said one lawyer yesterday. "When you win or even if you lose, the client seems happy to pay. But as the months



M'learned friends are miserable, despite their fat fees. Jack O'Sullivan and Elizabeth Wine find out why

go by, and the bills arrive, you get this negative feeling from them." Such attitudes are not surprising to those of us who have to pay up. (What can a goose do, a duck can't, and a lawyer should? Stick his bill up his ass.) Most lawyers will admit to other weaknesses. Some will concede, at least privately, that they are boring. "My mother says it's the nature of the training," confessed one solicitor. "When I'm telling a story, I give a dry, crusty resume because I spend my day reducing vast amounts of material to a few salient facts. Whereas a normal person will tell you, 'She said this, and then he said that, and then she did this and so on.' Though these accounts are often inaccurate and no more infor-

mative than mine, they're much more entertaining." And then he explained the problem of confidentiality. "Lawyers can't talk about what they do in the office during the day. So unless I'm a terribly interesting chap, what the hell do I have to talk about? Add to that the fact that a lot of lawyers are phenomenally pompous and we've got a problem." But the current state of depression apparently sweeping the Inns of Court and solicitors' offices across the country doesn't spring simply from public unpopularity. After all, lawyers, though respectable, have never been loved. When Dick discusses a replacement for the King in Shakespeare's *Henry VI, Part II*, he declares his pri-

ority: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."

Many lawyers are fed up because the good old days of job security are over. "It used to be the case that if you had a law degree, especially one from Oxford or Cambridge, then doors opened," said one lawyer. "You were sure of a job. But in recent years, we have felt, for the first time, the chill of recession." In the early Nineties lawyers experienced unemployment, and though business has recovered, those used to privilege are still in shock.

"Law is so much more competitive these days," said another. "We are being asked to market ourselves more aggressively. In the past, business

clients would stay with you for years unless something terrible went wrong. Now they are shopping around ruthlessly. They might have close relationships with three or four legal firms and play one off against the other. In the old days, clients would have been scared to ask at the beginning for a quote. And they certainly wouldn't go off to another firm for another estimate and return to tell you they had a lower quote. All that's changed."

"We're given billable targets. Firms expect you to produce a minimum number of billable hours work a day - maybe three or four in easy-going firms or six in the toughest outfits. You have to be great at glad-handing clients."

"Younger lawyers are dissatisfied. It's harder to get a partnership. And people are wondering whether partnership is worth the trouble, because of the responsibility. There is also the financial risk - some firms have gone bankrupt. And many of those who are ready to wait for partnership are frustrated with the managements of firms, which they can see don't have the managerial, marketing or PR skills that are needed in this more competitive environment."

All very sad. But many will recognise this as a snapshot of just about any professional group over the past decade, struggling to adjust from cosy security to a risky and harder working life, with some gaining great financial reward, others facing sudden failure.

If the jokes are anything to go by, the public will have little sympathy. (How do you get a lawyer out of a tree? Cut the rope.) Nor will the concerns of m'learned friends gain much credibility (How can you tell a lawyer is lying? His lips are moving.) The most likely outcome is that lawyers, like teachers and doctors, will get used to the harsher new world. And most recognise that it's wise to suffer in silence. "No one will tell you on the record that he'd like a different job," one lawyer said yesterday. "Clients would say, 'I'm paying him £200 an hour and he's saying he doesn't want to be a lawyer.'"

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obituaries / gazette

Alexander Kelly

Alexander Kelly was one of Britain's most eminent piano teachers, and one of its most loved. Early in his distinguished performing career he was made a professor at the Royal Academy of Music. For the next 30 years he made an enormous impact on the generations of pianists who flocked to study with him there.

His first experience of the RAM had been as a 17-year-old, when a Caird scholarship enabled him to leave his native Edinburgh in 1946. He broke off his studies for National Service in 1949, resuming them two

in particular have much to thank him for: Thomas Wilson's Piano Sonata was a favourite piece, and he also played works by Robert Crawford, Martin Dalby, David Doward, Thea Musgrave and John Purser. Peter Wishart wrote a Piano Concerto as a wedding present for Alex Kelly and the cellist Margaret Moncrieff when they married in 1957.

Margaret also had pride of place among Alex's duo partners. His natural pianistic gifts combined with a gregarious personality and an outrageous sense of humour to make him an ideal chamber musician. The violinist Jean Harvey, the flautist William Bennett and the tenor Duncan Robertson were among the other artists he worked with, a line that ended, touchingly, with another cellist, his younger daughter Alison Moncrieff-Kelly.

Along with Kelly's other daughter, Catriona, Margaret and Alison were ex-officio members of the teaching team: producers of endless cups of tea, pourers of endless glasses of wine. To be taken on as a pupil was to be absorbed into the Kelly family. Together they created an atmosphere that welcomed and nurtured, a household of ideas (you had to clear away the books to make room for the cups of tea) that became home from home for decades of students.

As a teacher Kelly had the great gift of finding the good in his pupils. The glass was always half full, never half empty. However anxious or depressed you were when you went in to a piano lesson, you came out playing better. And more often than not, laughing. Like everything else about Alex Kelly, his vision of music was generous. Lessons took in God, sex, pictures, poetry, (More books, this time cluttering up the piano.) He loathed playing that was dry.

Everything had to say something, everything had to have emotion.

The very antithesis of a career teacher, Kelly had no interest whatever in empire-building. His was an empire that spread of its own accord. And while his appointment in 1984 as Head of Keyboard marked the peak of his career at the RAM, it was the contact with students in his day-to-day teaching that continued to give him the greatest satisfaction. Those students have enriched British musical life: Michael Dussek, Vanessa Latache, David Owen Norris, Jonathan Plowright and the late Alan Gravill were all Kelly pupils. He cared less, though, about the technical excellence of whoever was playing to him than their musical integrity. He was equally prepared to be moved by a child or an enthusiastic amateur.

Theoretically, Alex Kelly retired in 1992. He retired in name alone, throwing himself into ever more examining and adjudicating, constitutionally incapable of refusing anyone who asked him for help. His influence extended far beyond his own pupils. Classic FM broadcast a series of his masterclasses, and the Caird Scholarships, the Associated Board and the Scottish International Piano Competition all benefited from his wisdom. You sat beside him in any official capacity at your peril, so monstrous were his jokes, so scurrilous his scribbled notes. As a colleague he showed the same qualities that marked his teaching and his life: warmth, charity and generosity.

Ian Burnside

Alexander Kelly, musician: born Edinburgh 30 June 1925; Professor, Royal Academy of Music 1960-94, Head of Keyboard 1984-92; married 1957 Margaret Moncrieff (two daughters); died London 23 October 1996.



Kelly: a household of ideas

years later. In addition to piano lessons with Harold Craxton he also learnt composition with Lennox Berkeley.

The concert life that followed was wide-ranging both in the repertoire Kelly played and the places where he performed. He was passionate about the Classical period, and his Festival Hall debut was in C.P.E. Bach under Beethoven. He also played Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* at the Wigmore Hall and at the Edinburgh Festival. He brought the same commitment to new music, giving many first performances both nationally and on tours to Eastern Europe, Asia and New Zealand. Scottish composers

Madame Soleil

Everyone knows that the French claim to be the most rational of nations, and therefore one would expect them to be secret believers in ways whereby they can discover their future. But there is no secret about it. Every opinion poll shows how the majority of the population regularly read their horoscopes in the press. And just as the modern press replaced the old almanacs by printing astrological horoscopes, so the gadget-orientated Frenchman turns to his Minut in order to find out what will happen to him.

The most famous of French astrologers was Madame Soleil. It was several years after the war, when her hat-making business had collapsed and it was necessary to support four children, that she joined the 30,000 professional fortune tellers who existed in France during the 1960s. She worked in fairs, until in the 1960s she was successful enough to require permanent consulting rooms in the Place du Commerce in the 15th arrondissement of Paris. But it was her first broadcast, on 14 September 1970, that brought her real fame. Her voice, which conjured up the countryside, and her laughter which made her everyone's friend, were linked with an efficient directness. Everyone listened to her, and her reputation grew when, in 1971, President Georges Pompidou, having been asked a difficult question by a Polish journalist, confessed that he could not foretell the fu-

ture and said, "I am not Madame Soleil."

She was equally successful when she appeared on television. Her methods were modern. She worked with a computer. But her pronouncements were traditional: she was very religious and she professed her belief in God's will. This was probably why in 1991 she married a man who was 19 years her junior. But apparently, even to him, she remained discreet about the famous people who consulted her and who included François Mitterrand probably, Brigitte Bardot perhaps.

But, although she claimed that she had discovered her particular gifts before the age of 10, she had made no use of them and knew poverty and hardship at many periods of her life. However, in 1930 she joined the staff of a newspaper, *La Volonté*, which had been founded by a radical deputy, Albert Dubarry, and which employed many talented and important writers, one of whom, André Tardieu, became Prime Minister. By 1931 Dubarry was receiving money from the infamous Alexandre Stavisky, whose crooked business deals and apparent immunity from arrest created the biggest scandal since the Dreyfus affair.

By 1934 a warrant was out for his arrest when, on 7 January, his body was discovered in a villa near Chamonix. It was officially said that Stavisky had committed suicide. But many claimed that he had been shot



Soleil: fortune telling

by those who feared he would reveal matters that would incriminate them.

It was Madame Soleil who had hired the Chamonix villa in her own name, although doing this for her paper. Almost certainly she knew the whereabouts of Stavisky when everyone was looking for him. It seems likely that she knew the truth of his death. She admitted that she had once had in her possession vital documents. But she claimed she had destroyed them.

Few realised that Madame Soleil was her real name. It was appropriate for someone who sought to illuminate the future. Historians think of it as appropriate for someone who could have illuminated some of the past.

Douglas Johnson

Germaine Lucie Soleil, astrologer: born Paris 18 July 1913; married twice; died Paris 27 October 1996.



'I never liked Chaplin': Cherrill with Chaplin in *City Lights*, 1931

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

Virginia Cherrill

A frail blonde with no previous acting experience, Virginia Cherrill became part of screen history with her first film, the silent classic *City Lights* in which her portrayal of the blind flower seller whose sight is restored by an operation paid for by a nondescript tramp (Charlie Chaplin) has continued to move and captivate audiences ever since the film's premiere in 1931. Her subsequent film roles were less distinguished (her voice was not ideal for sound) and, after a brief marriage to Cary Grant, she came to England, where, throughout the war years, she was the Countess of Jersey.

Born on a farm in Carthage, Illinois, in 1908, she moved to California in 1928 after a disastrous early marriage to a Chicago lawyer. Her college friend Sue Carol had become a successful film actress and Cherrill liked the idea of working in movies. Reports on her meeting with Chaplin vary – most indicate that they met at a boxing match, but Chaplin states that he had seen her earlier on the beach where she had blurted out, "When am I going to work for you?" Though he thought "her shapely form in a bathing suit did not inspire the idea of her playing such a spiritual part as the blind girl", he tested her and found that "to my surprise, she had the faculty of looking blind, following my advice to look inwardly at me but not see me".

The shooting of the film was stormy – Chaplin, the perfectionist, took five days to capture one 70-second sequence, where the tramp first encounters Cherrill who, believing him to be a millionaire, asks him to buy a flower. Concerned about the impact sound was having on cinema, the tense Chaplin had little patience with Cherrill's lack of commitment.

Described by the gossip columnist Louella Parsons as "Hollywood's greatest beauty", she was an inveterate party-goer, necessitating careful make-up for the film cameras the next morning. At one point, Chaplin tested other actresses with the intention of replacing Cherrill, but none had the poignant quality she was bringing to the role.

After over a year in the making *City Lights* opened to great acclaim and, though a music track and some sound effects were Chaplin's only concession to the craze for sound, it made an enormous profit. Despite the accolades given Cherrill, Chaplin had no desire to work with her again ("I never liked Chaplin and he never liked me", she later said), and she signed a contract with Fox, who put her into three 1931 releases, *Girls Demand Excitement* (with a young John Wayne), *John Ford's The Trail*, and a supporting role in the Janet Gaynor musical *Delicious*.

She was briefly engaged to the acrobatic dancer Buster West and to the millionaire William Rineholder Stewart before meeting Cary Grant at a party. "I fell in love with her almost the moment she walked

in," he said later. The couple were married in February 1934 but before the end of the year they were separated. Grant later stated: "My possessiveness and fear of losing her brought about the very condition I feared: the loss of her." (They remained friends and over 30 years later, when Grant was divorcing Dyan Cannon, Cherrill rang him to say: "If you want a character witness, I'll come right down there and give you one.") Cherrill resumed her career in Britain with two minor thrillers starring James Mason, *Late Extra* (1935, Mason's first film) and *Troubled Waters* (1936), which was to be her last film.

In 1937 she married the ninth Earl of Jersey, and as Lady Jersey undertook charity work during the Second World War. The marriage ended in 1946 and two years later Cherrill married a flying ace, Florian Martini. In 1950, they settled in Santa Barbara, California, where their 48-year marriage lasted until Cherrill's death.

"I was no great shakes as an actress," she once said, but her final close-up in *City Lights* in which, her sight restored, she fails to recognise the tramp as her benefactor until, giving him a flower, she touches his hand, moved the writer and critic James Agee to state: "It is enough to shiver the heart to see, the greatest piece of acting and the highest moment in movies."

Tom Vulliamy

Virginia Cherrill, actress: born Carthage, Illinois 12 April 1908; married 1927 Irving Adler (marriage dissolved 1928), 1934 Cary Grant (marriage dissolved 1935), 1937 George, ninth Earl of Jersey (marriage dissolved 1946), 1948 Florian Martini; died Santa Barbara, California, 14 November 1996.



Cherrill in *The Trail*, 1931

Professor Bryan Keith-Lucas

Bryan Keith-Lucas had a distinguished academic career, notable for his mastery of the politics of local government and for his ability to help establish academic communities – first at Nuffield College, Oxford, and secondly at Darwin College, at the University of Kent. Above all, he had an infectious enthusiasm for the study of politics, which he communicated to students who included Alan Beth MP and Professor George Jones of the London School of Economics.

From his background came his intellectual curiosity and a competitive edge. Born in 1912, Keith-Lucas was the youngest son of Dr Keith Lucas FRCS, who invented the first anaesthetical compass, and both his brothers went on to become professors.

Although by conviction a pacifist and although a member of a reserved occupation, Keith-Lucas volunteered to serve in the Second World War. He enlisted as a private in the Buffs, becoming (as he used to put it) a "temporary, acting (unpaid) corporal" before going on to Sandhurst. He served the rest of the war with the Sherwood Foresters, in which he became a major, was mentioned in despatches, and was the sole staff officer to survive the Volturno Crossing in Italy.

A solicitor by profession, Keith-Lucas moved from work in Nottingham to a lectureship in politics and local government at Oxford in 1948. There he became immersed in a course which was designed to prepare colonial officers for the transition to independence of the British colonies. As a result, he became a member of several constitutional commissions on independence, for Sierra Leone, Mauritius and Fiji. Seminal though these commissions were in the evolution of independence, in retrospect Keith-Lucas was critical of their lack of awareness of the importance of tribal divisions in the making of the new nation states.

Yet it was the unfashionable area of local government which he made his own. Nobody could have believed that local government could be interesting and exciting until attending one of his lectures. His professional study of local government was matched by his passionate belief in grass-roots politics. For him the parish council was a fundamental feature of democracy, and to use the word "parochial" in any derogatory sense was to offend. These themes run through his writings – *The History of Local Government in the 20th Century* (1978) and *Parish Government 1894-1994* (1994), of both of which he was joint author, and Redlich and Hirst's *History of Local Government in England* (1970), of which he was editor.

In addition to his work as a Senior Lecturer, he became the first Bursar of Nuffield College in 1957. With its graduate student body and its system of Visiting Fellows (such as Edward Heath), Keith-Lucas was in his element in pioneering a mixture of practical and academic politics. The intellectual challenge of the course was complemented by the hospitality that he and his wife Mary extended to their guests, especially at Sunday lunch parties. Outside the academic life, he served from 1950 to 1965 as

a university, non-party city councillor. In this capacity, he was elected Chairman of the Oxford City Housing Committee.

When he moved to the new University of Kent at Canterbury in 1964, Keith-Lucas brought something of the atmosphere of the Oxford high table to Canterbury. As Professor of Politics and Local Government he set up a successful and popular department and recruited a team of talented young academics. At the same time, as the inaugural Master of Darwin College he realised the ideal of a college community. He relished the social give-and-take of guest evenings, and was skilled in anecdote. But, even more important, he made sure that nobody was left out of the life of the college, and was always attentive to personal concerns. He was perhaps most at home when entertaining undergraduates to meet the University Chancellor, Jo Grimond.

Keith-Lucas enjoyed running the university's programme of visiting speakers, and confided that it was less difficult to obtain a speaker than an audience. After his retirement from



Keith-Lucas: liberal

Photograph: UPPA

the university in 1977, he enjoyed an Indian summer as a teacher at the King's School, Canterbury, where with characteristic vigour he instituted mock elections and a parliament. He was appointed CBE in 1983 for his work as Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils and for his work with the Hansard Society.

It is his warmth of character and enjoyment of life that remain Keith-Lucas's most enduring and endearing characteristics. A country walk around his beloved retirement village of Wye was a memorable experience, the conversation flowing around local history and high politics. The quintessential English liberal intellectual, with an infectious enthusiasm for life and a belief in democracy at all levels, he gave a legacy for which generations of students can be grateful.

Gerald Hattise

Bryan Keith-Lucas, political scientist: born 1 August 1912; Assistant Solicitor, Kensington Council 1938-46; Nottingham 1946-48; Senior Lecturer in Local Government, Oxford University 1948-65; Faculty Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford 1950-65; Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow 1983-86; Professor of Government, University of Kent at Canterbury 1965-77 (Emeritus); Master of Darwin College 1970-74; CBE 1983; married 1946 Mary Hardwicke (one son, two daughters); died Canterbury, Kent 7 November 1996.

Bob Magness, businessman: died Charlottesville, Virginia 15 November, aged 72. Built up the largest US cable television com-

pany, Tele-Communications Inc, with 14m subscribers, from a two-man operation run from his kitchen in the Sixties.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

BOATENG, K.A. "Boat", FRCS, suddenly, on 15 November 1996, aged 58 years, devoted husband and father, who will be sadly missed. Funeral service: Tuesday 26 November at All Saints Church, Rotherham, at 1pm. Flowers and enquiries to Freeman Brothers, 4 North Parade, Rotherham, Suxes, 01403 254590. All friends and colleagues welcome at the service.

HERBERT, David Mark, publisher, beloved husband of Brenda and father of Charlie and Emma, quietly at home on 18 November 1996. Funeral service at St Peter de Beauvoir, De Beauvoir Road, London N1, at 12 noon on Tuesday, 26 November. Family flowers; donations if wished to St Joseph's Hospice, Mare Street, London E8 4SA.

HINDS: On 13 November, suddenly, at home, William George, aged 53, dearly loved husband of Marion and dear father of Katie and Frances. Requiem Mass at St Peter's Church, Winchester, on Friday 22 November at 12.15pm. Enquiries to Joa Steel & Son, 01962 964044.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5UL, telephone 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 60p a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Mr Michael Alexander, explorer and writer, 76; Mr Denis Allport, former Chairman, Metal Box, 74; Lord Archer of Sandwell QC, former MP, 70; The Hon Hugh Astor, former deputy chairman of the Times, 76; Mr Peter Badge, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, 65; Mr Alistair Cooke, journalist and broadcaster, 88; Brigadier Bernard Cowey, Welsh rugby international, 85; Miss Alexandra Durrant, choreographer and actress, 50; Sir Alan Goodison, former diplomat, 76; Miss Nadine Gordiner, novelist, 73; Miss Dulcie Gray, actress and author, 76; Mr Aubrey Jones, former government minister, 85; Mr Pizara Khabra MP, 72; Mr Johnny Leach, former table-tennis champion, 74; Mr James MacPherson, Lord Lieutenant, Grampian Region, 69; Sir Richard Morris, former chairman, Brown and Root, 71; Sir David Price, former MP, 72; Mr Arthur Rees, former Chief Constable, Denbighshire and Staffordshire, Welsh rugby international, 84; Mr Wilfred Woollet, cricketer and Welsh rugby international, 84.

Anniversaries

Births: Paulus Potter, animal painter, 1625; Thomas Chatterton, poet, 1752; Friedrich Heinrich Himmel, harpsichordist and composer, 1765; Sir Samuel Cunard, shipowner, 1787; William Chappell, music publisher, 1809; Edwin Powell Hubble, astronomer, 1889; Gene Tierney, actress, 1920; Deaths: Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor, 1591; Henry Francis Lyte, writer of hymns ("Abide With Me"), 1847; Anton Grigoryevich Rubinstein, pianist and composer, 1894; John Rushworth Jellicoe, first Earl Jellicoe, admiral of the fleet, 1935; Ellen Anderson Gholson Glasgow, novelist, 1945. On this day: Britain declared war on the Netherlands, 1780; Beethoven's opera *Fidelio* was first performed, Vienna 1805; Venezuela was declared to be independent of Spain by Simon Bolivar, 1818; Charles Stewart Rolls and Frederick Henry Royce combined to form the firm of Rolls Royce, 1906; a republic was declared in Ukraine, 1917; after five years of blackout, lights were switched on in London in Piccadilly, the Strand and Fleet Street, 1944; the War Crimes trial at Nuremberg began, 1945; Princess Elizabeth married the Duke of Edinburgh, 1947; Sowdomia was declared a National Park, 1951; after the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw Ilyushin bombers from Cuba, the United States lifted the blockade, 1962; President Sadat of Egypt visited Israel for peace talks, 1977. Today is the Feast Day of St Benward, St Desus, St Edmund the Martyr, St Felix of Valois, St Euzennat of Beauvais and St Nerses of Salgurd.

Lectures

National Gallery: Gregory Martin, "Rubens (III): Rubens and other Northern Landscape Painters of his time", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Alan Deuchar, "The Examination and Conservation of the Raphael Cartoons", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Richard Cook talks about the Turner Prize, 1pm. Royal Society, London SW1: Dr Michael Bagshaw, "The Human Factor in Aviation: the weakest or the strongest link?", 5.30pm. King's College London, Strand, London WC2: Dr Ladislav Kvasz, "The

History of Modern Geometry in the Light of Wittgenstein's Picture Theory of Meaning", 5.15pm. Stirling University (Robbins Lecture): Sir Christopher Ball, "More Means Different", 3.30pm.

Dinners

Ministry of Defence: Earl Howe, Under-Secretary of State for Defence, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, jointly hosted a dinner-dinner evening at Admiralty House, London SW1, also attended by the Air Force Board. Among those present were: The Duke of Orléans; Lord Dunsany; The Very Rev Michael Myers; Sir Peter Cusack; Mr John Kemp-Welch; Mr Robert Ayling; Mr Jonathan Hobbrow; Mr Gavin Lyall; Mr Colin Baines.

University appointments

Mr Marvack Goulding, to be Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen attended the Royal Concert in aid of the Warheadstock Benevolent Fund at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW1. The Princess Royal opened the new Headquarters of North of Scotland Water Authority, Braemar Road Business Park, Inverness. Princess Margaret, Patron, attended a reception given by the Poetry and Glass Trade Benevolent Societies at Paterson Hall, London ECA. The Duchess of Gloucester opened Military Lodge at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, and in Person, the Duchess, then, opened a new ward at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Portsmouth. Princess Alexandra attended a Dinner to be given by the British Motorway Society at the St James Court Hotel, London SW1.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment moved the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Horse Guards, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band played by the Welsh Guards.

Sikh's expulsion would breach human rights

Chahal v United Kingdom; European Court of Human Rights, 15 November 1996

LAW REPORT

20 November 1996

The prohibition in article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights against the use of "torture or inhuman or degrading punishment" was absolute and fundamental, and applied to a person suspected of terrorist activities as much as to anyone else. Whatever the evidence against him, such a person could not be deported if to do so would subject him to violations of article 3 in the receiving state.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled, by 12 votes to 7, that the deportation of Karamjit Singh Chahal would violate article 3 and, unanimously, that there had also been violations by the UK of articles 5.4 and 13 of the Convention in his case. Article 5.4 provided:

Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful.

By article 13,

Everyone whose rights and freedoms as set forth in this Convention are violated shall have an effective remedy before a national authority...

The applicant, an Indian citizen, entered the UK illegally in 1971 but in 1974 was granted indefinite leave to remain. On a visit to the Punjab in 1984 he became involved in organising passive resistance in support of a Sikh homeland. He was arrested and tortured by the Punjab police. On his return to the UK he became a prominent figure in the affairs of British Sikhs.

In August 1990 the Home Secretary decided to deport Mr Chahal on grounds of national security and the international fight against terrorism. He had been detained in custody ever since. His application for political asylum was refused.

Because of the national security elements of the case, Mr Chahal had no right of appeal to an independent tribunal, but on 10 July 1991 his case was considered by an advisory panel. He was not told of the evidence against him, was not allowed to be represented by a lawyer and was not told of the panel's advice to the Home Secretary, who signed a deportation order on 25 July 1991. An application for judicial review

failed because the courts did not have access to the national security evidence against Mr Chahal and so could not assess whether the refusal of asylum was irrational or perverse.

The European Court of Human Rights said article 3 enshrined one of the most fundamental values in democratic societies. The court was aware of the difficulties faced by states in protecting their communities from terrorist violence. But even in these circumstances, the Convention prohibited in absolute terms torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, irrespective of the person in question. This prohibition was equally absolute in expulsion cases.

It was therefore unnecessary to consider the UK government's untested, but no doubt bona fide, allegations about Mr Chahal's terrorist activities and his threat to national security. The only relevant question was whether substantial grounds had been shown for believing that he would be ill treated in India.

Having regard to the evidence, corroborated from various sources, of serious human rights violations both in the Punjab and elsewhere in India, the court was not persuaded that assurances by the Indian government, were adequate to guarantee Mr Chahal's safety. It followed that his deportation would violate article 3.

As to article 5.4, the use of confidential material might be unavoidable where national security was at stake, but that did not mean the national authorities could be free from effective control by domestic courts. It was possible to employ techniques which accommodated legitimate security concerns about the nature and sources of intelligence information and yet accorded the individual a substantial measure of procedural justice. As to article 13, given the fundamental importance of the prohibition in article 3, an effective remedy for Mr Chahal's complaint required independent scrutiny of his claim that he would be ill treated if deported to India. The lack of such scrutiny in Mr Chahal's case violated article 13.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

مكتبة من الاموال

Foreign Exchange Rates									
STERLING		DOLLAR		D-MARK		YEN		FRANK	
Country	1 month	Country	1 month	Country	1 month	Country	1 month	Country	1 month
US	165.3	UK	1.48	US	1.00	UK	1.00	US	1.00
Canada	2.387	Germany	2.387	Canada	1.349	Germany	1.349	Canada	1.349
Japan	255.9	France	255.9	Japan	16.07	France	16.07	Japan	16.07
Italy	206.9	Italy	206.9	Italy	1.366	Italy	1.366	Italy	1.366
Spain	166.9	Spain	166.9	Spain	1.666	Spain	1.666	Spain	1.666
Sweden	206.9	Sweden	206.9	Sweden	1.366	Sweden	1.366	Sweden	1.366
Switzerland	206.9	Switzerland	206.9	Switzerland	1.366	Switzerland	1.366	Switzerland	1.366
Australia	206.9	Australia	206.9	Australia	1.366	Australia	1.366	Australia	1.366
New Zealand	206.9	New Zealand	206.9	New Zealand	1.366	New Zealand	1.366	New Zealand	1.366
South Africa	206.9	South Africa	206.9	South Africa	1.366	South Africa	1.366	South Africa	1.366
India	206.9	India	206.9	India	1.366	India	1.366	India	1.366
China	206.9	China	206.9	China	1.366	China	1.366	China	1.366
Japan	206.9	Japan	206.9	Japan	1.366	Japan	1.366	Japan	1.366
South Korea	206.9	South Korea	206.9	South Korea	1.366	South Korea	1.366	South Korea	1.366
Philippines	206.9	Philippines	206.9	Philippines	1.366	Philippines	1.366	Philippines	1.366
Indonesia	206.9	Indonesia	206.9	Indonesia	1.366	Indonesia	1.366	Indonesia	1.366
Malaysia	206.9	Malaysia	206.9	Malaysia	1.366	Malaysia	1.366	Malaysia	1.366
Singapore	206.9	Singapore	206.9	Singapore	1.366	Singapore	1.366	Singapore	1.366
Thailand	206.9	Thailand	206.9	Thailand	1.366	Thailand	1.366	Thailand	1.366
Brunei	206.9	Brunei	206.9	Brunei	1.366	Brunei	1.366	Brunei	1.366
Myanmar	206.9	Myanmar	206.9	Myanmar	1.366	Myanmar	1.366	Myanmar	1.366
Burma	206.9	Burma	206.9	Burma	1.366	Burma	1.366	Burma	1.366
Cambodia	206.9	Cambodia	206.9	Cambodia	1.366	Cambodia	1.366	Cambodia	1.366
Laos	206.9	Laos	206.9	Laos	1.366	Laos	1.366	Laos	1.366
Vietnam	206.9	Vietnam	206.9	Vietnam	1.366	Vietnam	1.366	Vietnam	1.366
North Vietnam	206.9	North Vietnam	206.9	North Vietnam	1.366	North Vietnam	1.366	North Vietnam	1.366
South Vietnam	206.9	South Vietnam	206.9	South Vietnam	1.366	South Vietnam	1.366	South Vietnam	1.366
East Germany	206.9	East Germany	206.9	East Germany	1.366	East Germany	1.366	East Germany	1.366
West Germany	206.9	West Germany	206.9	West Germany	1.366	West Germany	1.366	West Germany	1.366
Poland	206.9	Poland	206.9	Poland	1.366	Poland	1.366	Poland	1.366
Czech Republic	206.9	Czech Republic	206.9	Czech Republic	1.366	Czech Republic	1.366	Czech Republic	1.366
Slovak Republic	206.9	Slovak Republic	206.9	Slovak Republic	1.366	Slovak Republic	1.366	Slovak Republic	1.366
Hungary	206.9	Hungary	206.9	Hungary	1.366	Hungary	1.366	Hungary	1.366
Romania	206.9	Romania	206.9	Romania	1.366	Romania	1.366	Romania	1.366
Bulgaria	206.9	Bulgaria	206.9	Bulgaria	1.366	Bulgaria	1.366	Bulgaria	1.366
Serbia	206.9	Serbia	206.9	Serbia	1.366	Serbia	1.366	Serbia	1.366
Croatia	206.9	Croatia	206.9	Croatia	1.366	Croatia	1.366	Croatia	1.366
Slovenia	206.9	Slovenia	206.9	Slovenia	1.366	Slovenia	1.366	Slovenia	1.366
Yugoslavia	206.9	Yugoslavia	206.9	Yugoslavia	1.366	Yugoslavia	1.366	Yugoslavia	1.366
Albania	206.9	Albania	206.9	Albania	1.366	Albania	1.366	Albania	1.366
Moldova	206.9	Moldova	206.9	Moldova	1.366	Moldova	1.366	Moldova	1.366
Ukraine	206.9	Ukraine	206.9	Ukraine	1.366	Ukraine	1.366	Ukraine	1.3

business & city

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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Bonuses soar to £315m in securities trading firms despite danger signals on rising costs

Peter Rodgers
Financial Editor

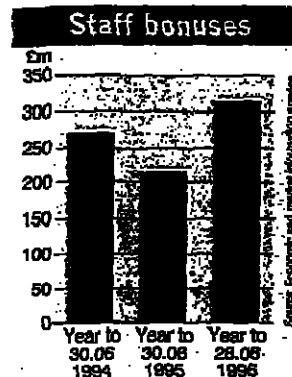
Bonuses paid by Stock Exchange member firms to employees soared by almost £100m to a record £315m in the year to June, as a booming stock market lined the pockets of market-makers and brokers.

Stock Exchange figures released yesterday, covering 250 member firms, confirmed widespread reports of huge rewards throughout the City as business volumes and profitability shot up.

Profits made by the Exchange's members more than quadrupled compared with the previous 12 months to £719m before tax – a rise of 334 per cent – with a record £38m in the first quarter of 1996.

The figures give a rare insight into the financial industry's bonuses and profit-sharing since most of the rest of the City does not compile similar data.

But many other City businesses have been sharing this year in payouts that are back to



the levels of the 1980s boom years and are probably comparable with those in the securities market.

In the year to June, bonuses and profit-sharing in Stock Exchange firms averaged 22 per cent of staff costs, but hit a record of 30 per cent in the second quarter of this year compared with the long-term average of 17 per cent.

The gravy train is known to have reached fund managers,

corporate financiers, foreign exchange dealers and even senior backroom staff, who are much sought after, and are often now on similar compensation packages to those awarded to the high profile dealers in the front office.

There have been regular disclosures over the last year of multi-million pound earnings packages awarded to City staff, dwarfing most of the so-called fat cats in industry.

This has been fuelled by a merry-go-round of staff changes, with firms such as Deutsche Morgan Grenfell offering to guarantee bonuses to entice new staff to their expanding operations.

As a result of the payouts, staff costs are rising far faster than any other costs, with bonuses and profit-sharing representing the biggest part of the increase and creaming off a substantial part of the rising profits.

What the Exchange called the "vibrant" market of 1995-96 contrasted with the previous year when there was a £308m decline in pre-tax profits.

The 46 per cent increase in bonuses and profit share to £315m in the year to June compares with a decline of 21 per cent in the year to June 1995, when the total paid out was £216m.

But although profits have soared, the Exchange report showed that the return on capital made by firms in the stock market was surprisingly poor, and firms have been withdrawing capital from the industry de-



Champagne time in the City: Profits made by members of the London Stock Exchange almost quadrupled to £719m

spite the bonanza of the last year. The first half of 1996 saw the first significant fall in capital employed, which the Exchange blamed on restructuring in the industry and the impact of the European Capital Adequacy Directive.

The report said: "Although the absolute financial perfor-

mance of member firms has been impressive, it is clearly less so when compared to the amount of capital they employ."

The long-term average return on capital is only 6 per cent, and "despite recent favourable conditions, the modest return over the past year would be lower still

if firms had not reduced the amount of capital employed."

Other costs, such as running buildings and services and charges made between companies, have fallen, showing that the performance of Exchange businesses is being driven more than ever by the rewards for staff. Overall staff costs in-

cluding salaries and bonuses have been under better control, with a 9 per cent increase. The Exchange report on member firms' financial performance said that the bonus and profit-sharing levels reflected the "benign market conditions", the entry of new firms and restructuring through mergers and

Customs ordered to repay £35m VAT

Roger Trapp

The High Court yesterday delivered a blow to the Customs & Excise over its increasingly tough policy on value added tax collection by ruling that it had acted illegally in refusing to refund about £35m that had been paid in error.

The hard-hitting ruling was hailed by accountants as great news for the business community, which had been waging a campaign against the Government's attempts to reduce its exposure to large VAT refunds by imposing a time limit on claims. Most advisers accept the need for some limit and propose six years, in line with the period that applies to Customs officials investigating taxpayers' affairs.

However, though Customs is not expected to appeal against the judgment, it immediately made clear that the taxpayers' victory may be short-lived because it still intends to include

proposals to introduce a three-year cap in next week's Budget.

Though the organisations – including the mail-order companies GUS and Kay & Co and the drinks group Allied Domecq – will be entitled to immediate payment of the money, Customs indicated that it would seek to claw back the sum once the proposals become law, in about three weeks.

The case stems from a ruling by the VAT Tribunal earlier this month that – though Customs had imposed the cap in July – claims going back several years were valid because the cap had not yet been approved by Parliament. Since the tribunal could not direct Customs to pay back the money, taxpayers were urged to issue writs against the organisation.

However, the issue goes back much further, to a spate of cases earlier this year that raised the spectre of the Government having to pay billions of pounds

in VAT refunds to such businesses as retailers operating interest-free credit deals and operators of company car fleets.

The rulings came shortly after the revelation that the approximately £43m in VAT received by the Government in the financial year to the end of March 1996 was significantly less than had been expected.

In an attempt to give greater certainty to the Treasury's revenues, Customs & Excise announced in July that any business which discovered it had overpaid VAT could only go back three years rather than claim an unlimited refund, in some cases going back to the introduction of the tax in 1973.

Since then, Customs has been refusing refunds of amounts paid more than three years earlier because "it would waste business time and public resources if the department were to refund such money only to claw the money back."



Given a free hand: Gerry Robinson of Granada

Granada launches hotel sales

Mathew Horsman
Media Editor

Granada, the leisure and media conglomerate, yesterday launched the long-awaited disposal of its Exclusive Hotels, with the sale of the Hyde Park Hotel in London for £86m to Mandarin Oriental International, a unit of Singapore-based Jardine Matheson.

The sale, on the eve of its full-year results announcement today, marks the first step toward selling all 17 Exclusives, inher-

ited by Granada when it won its £3.9bn takeover of Forte early this year. The rest of the portfolio, which will be sold singly or in small units, is expected to generate £900m, which will be used to pay down Granada's £3.5bn debt.

But company insiders cautioned against expectations that the disposal programme would be accelerated. "We are looking to get the best prices we can, and will not be rushed," said one senior executive. The sale is expected to be completed by early

next year, and will see such landmarks as the Westbury and the Grosvenor House change hands, probably to a range of Far Eastern, European and US buyers.

The relatively leisurely pace of disposals was due, analysts said, to Granada's desire to get the highest prices it can at a time when several high-profile hotels and chains have been placed on the market. Moreover, the stock market has been unbothered by the company's high debt load, against a backdrop of low-interest rates, and have given

Gerry Robinson, the chairman, plenty of leeway in tackling the disposals programme.

The Hyde Park, which will be renamed the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, boasts 185 rooms and had an operating profit in the year ending 31 January of £4.7m. Mandarin said yesterday that the acquisition would be earnings-enhancing by the end of next year.

The hotel disposal programme is expected to be followed by the acquisition of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees.

Takeover talk lifts London Electricity

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Takeover speculation engulfed London Electricity yesterday following reports that Entergy, the US utility, was preparing to mount a £1.2bn bid.

London is one of only five remaining regional power suppliers still independent out of 12 at the time of privatisation

six years ago. Two of the five, Northern and East Midlands, are already the subject of takeover bids.

The speculation boosted London's share price 28.5p to 665p as rumours about Entergy's intentions switched from Yorkshire Electricity. Shares in Yorkshire fell 7p to 739.5p while Southern Electric also dropped 4p to 702.5p.

Both London and Entergy refused to comment on the share price move. "All we can say is what we always say, that we comment on speculation a London spokeswoman said.

The reports from the US had claimed Entergy, based in New Orleans, had singled out an unnamed UK bid target which closely resembled London. The reports suggested a

formal offer would put a price tag of £7 on each share in the company.

Entergy has made no secret of its intention to make further investments in Britain. It already has a joint venture with BP to build a large gas-fired power station near Hull and has an office in central London. The group is known to have engaged merchant bankers Morgan Stanley.

With 2.2 million customers and revenues last year of \$6.5bn (£3.9bn) Entergy is one of the largest US utility firms. It has expanded overseas in recent years, investing across South America, in Hong Kong and Pakistan. It also paid more than \$1bn for the company which supplies electricity to customers in Melbourne, Australia.

'City fines should be big enough to hurt'

Peter Rodgers

A huge increase in fines for City cheats and the firms for which they work was proposed last night by Lord Runciman, deputy chairman of the Securities and Investments Board and former chairman of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

He said fines should be big enough to hurt and "since some of the players are very big, some of the fines should be very big indeed."

The power to fine should be extended to include repayment of profits and restitution to the victims of abuse, as well as the

ability to apply to civil courts to fine outside offenders who are not within the regulators' remit.

Lord Runciman, in a speech to the Securities Institute in London, defined cheats as those who commit what are usually regarded as technical offences or lapses of judgement which were actually "calculated irresponsibility" and not as innocently technical as they were made out.

Other types of cheating involved "deliberately uncorrected misinformation," and those who specialise in driving a coach and horses through loopholes and cutting corners. He made a distinction be-

tween cheats and crooks, who he said should be dealt with by the criminal law.

Lord Runciman said one of the flaws of the Financial Services Act was that the SIB, the lead regulator, had no power to fine, unlike the junior regulators that reported to it.

He demanded much greater use of "naming and shaming" as a punishment, by listing offenders publicly, and he said it was another anomaly that SIB found it hard to do this under the present legislation.

Lord Runciman called for tougher powers to expel cheats completely from the markets,

saying "some might say that banishment for life is a lot more serious than being condemned to a few months of watching television in a comfortable open prison before returning to a long and lucrative career in the same sector of business where the offence was committed."

Regulators should be given powers to prevent serious cheats from continuing to practise, whether or not they were authorised to carry out investment business under the act.

They should also have the power to pursue elusive but "potentially nefarious" characters

such as shadow directors, bullying shareholders, pseudo consultants and "even, perhaps, the manipulating spouse".

For certain types of misconduct, naming and shaming could deter offenders from risking a similar demolition of their reputations against potential offenders would also be deterred when they saw the unpleasant experiences of those whose reputations had been tarnished.

There was a final group of miscreants he called charlatans, who are not deliberately cheating but are not fit to be trusted with other peoples' money or to give investment advice.



Lord Runciman: Called for a rise in fines for City cheats

Exchange clamps down on leaks

Mathew Horsman

The Stock Exchange has revised to its rules on company directors, in the wake of last week's selected leak to the *Financial Times* about a reduced role for United News & Media's chairman, Lord Stevens.

According to the new regulation, entered under clause 16.7 of the official Listing Rules, companies "must notify the Companies Announcements Office without delay (by the end of the business day following the decision) when... any important functions or executive responsibilities of a director are changed."

Had it been in effect, the rule change, revealed in the *Independent* last week, would have obliged United News & Media to issue a statement about Lord Stevens' move to a part-time role starting next spring, which will see cuts in both his salary and his expenses. The Stock Exchange said yesterday that the rule was officially in place, and would be carefully enforced.

Lord Stevens has taken a less active role in the management of United News & Media since the merger of the company with Lord Hollick's MAI earlier this year. But his salary, which stood at £510,000 a year at the time of the merger, has yet to be cut. A decision about his new

remuneration will be made by a board committee in due course, the company has said.

Lord Hollick, chief executive of the combined companies, is widely viewed as the prime architect of United's acquisition of Blenheim, the exhibitions company, and the purchase of a stake in ITV company HTV. United is expected to clinch the purchase of Westcountry Television this week, for a sum believed to be between £75m and £80m. The acquisition will be seen as a step towards creating a southern England and Wales ITV giant, taking in Westcountry, HTV and United's own ITV licences, Anglia and Meridian.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	2978.10	+16.00	+0.4	4073.10	3632.30
FTSE 250	3400.30	+0.10	+0.0	4568.60	4015.30
FTSE 350	1980.20	+6.30	+0.3	2022.10	1816.60
FTSE SmallCap	2180.42	-3.11	-0.1	2244.36	1954.06
FTSE All-Share	1954.08	+5.51	+0.3	1994.54	1791.95
New York	8570.02	+23.11	+0.3	6376.72	5032.94
Tokyo	20956.18	+159.51	+0.8	22666.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	13056.93	+14.13	+0.1	13056.93	10204.87
Frankfurt	2764.09	+0.25	+0.0	2795.80	2253.36

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields	
6.01	7.8	5.6	1 Month	1 Year	Long Term
6.55	7.8	5.6	3 Months	2 Year	10 Year
6.48	7.8	5.6	6 Months	3 Year	20 Year
6.37	7.8	5.6	9 Months	4 Year	30 Year
6.31	7.8	5.6	12 Months	5 Year	40 Year
6.25	7.8	5.6	18 Months	6 Year	50 Year

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	£/A\$	£/NZ\$	£/HK\$
1.6733	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750
1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750
1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750
1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750
1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750	1.6750

WATERPROOF WINDPROOF BREATHABLE

SYNATE

ALL-WEATHER CLOTHING AT

HOUSE OF FRASER

مكتبة الادب



Dangers in the City's runaway gravy train

Everybody knows that the City pays itself too much. What is not generally appreciated, is that the very high rates of bonus enhanced remuneration securities firms pay their staff are almost certainly not justified by the profits and return on capital they earn. Indeed, if those who pay themselves so much in the City were to find such runaway excess in the ordinary commercial and industrial companies they invest in and analyse, they would rightly run a mile, thinking this symptomatic of massive management failure.

And yet that is precisely what the latest numbers on the financial performance of stock exchange member firms show. Boosted by big bonuses, the trend in staff costs continues to motor on upwards at a brisk pace. Admittedly they are not yet as high as they were at the peak of the last bull market towards the end of 1993, but don't forget that most organisations have downgraded by anything up to 20 per cent since then. Furthermore, bonuses for the year to the end of last June were at record levels with every prospect of moving higher still this year.

Other costs have meanwhile been cut back quite sharply with the result that overall costs have only increased year on year quite marginally by 1 per cent. It ought to be clear what is going on here. Staff are in effect gobbling up all the efficiency gains being made in these firms through enhanced pay and bonuses. The oddest thing about it is the apparent willingness of those who own

these businesses to tolerate the persistence of this extraordinary gravy train, for it isn't as if the returns even in present market conditions are that remarkable.

If they were, then the owners would perhaps be justified in sharing it around a bit. But they are not. As the Stock Exchange report concludes "The long-term average return is only six per cent and despite recent favourable conditions, the modest return of the past year would be lower still if firms in aggregate had not reduced the amount of capital employed". Some firms will be doing better than that, of course, but on the whole this doesn't look like the sort of business you want to be in, not as an investor in any case.

Now if you are an employee, it is a different matter, for the astonishing irony is that modern day securities firms actually seem to be closer in terms of who they serve to worker cooperatives than the corporations most of them are supposed to be. Perhaps before preaching to the rest of us about capital being a scarce commodity, the importance of keeping wages under control and all the rest of that annoying but only too true free market guff, the City ought to think first about setting its own house in order. Some chance.

Small fire in the Channel Tunnel, not many injured. The reaction in the financial markets to the blaze on board one of Eurotunnel's freight shuttles on Monday night was remarkably sanguine. The shares were off just 3.5p yesterday and the price at which its debt trades was barely changed at a shade under 40 per cent.

Perhaps the markets have become so accustomed to Eurotunnel's never ending succession of crises that they cannot summon up the energy to worry about one more. When you have debts of £9bn and no hope of making a profit until well into the next millennium, what do five burned out wagons and a two-thirds reduction in capacity really matter, even in the run-up to Christmas?

But perhaps the markets are being just a little too phlegmatic in their response. There is something about passengers emerging from a tunnel under the sea choking on the fumes and pursued by "blow-torch" like heat that has a special resonance. Fires on board ferries are not much fun either, as one of Eurotunnel's bankers was quick to point out yesterday, but at least you can swim for it whereas the options 30 metres underneath the sea bed are somewhat more limited.

If the images from Monday night resonate loudly enough with travel agents and the InterGovernmental Safety Authority, which licences Eurotunnel to operate, then the company and the project could be in trouble. There are two worries here. Will the fire and the resultant adverse publicity blow a big enough hole in Eurotunnel's revenues to make the arithmetic for its £8.7bn debt rescheduling look even more dubious?

Second, will Eurotunnel find itself having to make very expensive and time-consuming modifications to its freight shuttle design to give lorry drivers the same degree of fire protection afforded to holidaymakers? If it does then Eurotunnel will find its operational efficiency and hence revenue-earning capacity being hit. Sir Alastair Morton may yet be summoned out of retirement for Channel Tunnel 2: The Ultimate Crisis.

The pursuit of long-term success in business is the holy grail of all executives, investors and policy makers, so we should not perhaps get too worked up about the launch of the Kleinwort Benson Tomorrow's Company Exempt Trust, a new unit trust dedicated to investing in companies that take an "inclusive approach" to management. All the same, KB has latched on to quite compelling and highly saleable investment fad here which others are bound to follow. Even accountants, long the object of wrath for their concentration on the numbers, have started talking about a "balanced scorecard" approach to financial reporting, while recent changes to accounting standards have done much to help readers of financial statements gain a wider view of company performance. A fund that seeks to move away from pure number-crunching and towards a more balanced approach to what constitutes "a successful company" should do well.

The Tomorrow's Company report, which inspired the creation of the new trust, was criticised by many when it appeared last year for being too wistful-washy. Even so it did set out some clear criteria, including paying attention to "stakeholders" other than shareholders, for companies seeking to qualify as "inclusive". Kleinwort has gone on to list five "behavioural aspects" to consider alongside business processes and financial results. They are communicating the company's purpose and values; identifying key sources of sustainable success; developing a unique success model and measuring its results; placing a positive value on key relationships with such groups as suppliers, customers, the community and employees; and maintaining a healthy licence to operate.

The idea is that, soft and intangible as these criteria may be, they are still capable of being measured, and of having a positive financial effect. For instance, environmental concerns become financial issues when a pollution incident occurs, while a company that has its systems all running perfectly is still likely to find itself in trouble if it neglects customer service or investment in the development of its people. The only problem with all this is that every chief executive is going to claim that his or her company is meeting all these criteria. It will be up to the researchers to distinguish the real smart company from the many counterfeits.

Solid pop sales pump up the profits at EMI

Matthew Horsman
Media Editor

EMI, the music recording, publishing and retail arm of the now-demerged Thorn-EMI, yesterday cheered the City with better-than-expected half-year results, buoyed by solid sales from such lead acts as George Michael and Tina Turner.

Analysts said that big sellers in the current period, led by the new all-female band Spice Girls, would give an extra boost to the crucial second half, which includes the Christmas season. Pre-tax profits of £112.5m, up 9.4 per cent on a pro-forma basis, indicated that recent gloom and doom in the music business might have been overplayed, analysts added yesterday. The shares, which still had a slight stock-market premium on takeover hopes, rose 23.5p to £12.94p yesterday.

Sir Colin Southgate, EMI's chairman, said yesterday the market had been misled by recent poor results from such music giants as Polygram and MCA, which did not necessarily point to a downward secular trend in sales.

"There is a tremendous misunderstanding about the [music] market," he said. "When you account for differences in wholesale and retail markets, and recent currency movements, the trends are actually quite good."

The US market has been softer, he conceded, but Europe and the dynamic economies of South-east Asia and Latin America more than made up for it. EMI's business is heavily weighted toward Europe and other world markets, and the company has never developed a leading presence in the US.

The results were also helped by EMI's relatively light exposure to such difficult markets as classical music, and by its strong

local catalogues, particularly in South America and Europe.

EMI's third quarter, which coincides with the Christmas selling period, is likely to be somewhat disappointing, however, due to the lack of big-name releases. The company is expected to rely more on its back catalogue to drive compilation sales, and on one or two big sellers, which could include the new Spice Girls album and the third and final instalment of the Beatles Anthology album, which entered the US charts at number one. Also scheduled for third-quarter release is a three-album special from the Artists Formerly Known as Prince.

EMI has high hopes for Spice Girls, the UK-based band. The all-girl group is "definitely part of a trend," Sir Colin said. "We have seen all-boy bands, but now it's the turn of the girls."

The fourth quarter, starting 1 January, is expected to be particularly strong, with new work from Duran Duran, Simple Minds, Blur, Supergrass and Robbie Williams, formerly with the hit group Take That.



Flavour of the month: EMI is backing all-girl bands like Spice Girls (above) as the latest trend

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Elsewhere in the group, the music publishing arm had a record half, which the company is actively seeking to build. The HMV retail operations, meanwhile, saw sales ahead by 17.4 per cent to £359.8m, on which the company made an expected seasonal loss of £11m.

Analysts expect full-year figures of about £400m, or about 54p a share. The company declared an interim dividend of 8p a share, up from 7.1p last time.

Visitors lift Euro Disney by 55%

Tom Stevenson

A sharp increase in visitor numbers to Disneyland Paris, better occupancy rates at the theme park's hotels and higher spending per head helped Euro Disney to a 55 per cent rise in underlying profits in the year to September.

The debt-laden leisure company admitted, however, that the interest costs on its borrowings are set to rise rapidly over the next few years forcing it to run hard simply to stand still in profit terms.

Philippe Bourguignon, chairman and chief executive, said: "We are proud of what has been accomplished in a difficult economic environment, particularly for the tourism industry. Persistent weakness in the economy, constant pressure on our prices and the strong increase in financial charges constitute several real challenges for the future, particularly in 1997."

Attendance rose by 9 per cent to 11.7 million visitors in the year to September, the second full-year period since a financial restructuring in 1994 rescued Euro Disney. Numbers were boosted by the opening of the Space Mountain ride, the introduction of lower winter prices in October 1995 and the completion of high-speed direct train links with western France and London.

Occupancy rates in the park's seven hotels increased to 72 per cent, up 4 percentage points, and spend per room increased by 3 per cent to just over £11,000. Those trends helped operating revenues increase 9 per cent to Fr4,978m (£584m) and after a smaller 3 per cent rise in costs underlying profits emerged at Fr724m, up from Fr467m in 1995.

That more than made up for a Fr103m increase in finance costs due to the partial unwinding of the interest and royalty holidays negotiated in 1994, leaving income before exceptional items of Fr156m (£18m).

Projections of interest payments, however, show that profits will have to continue to grow sharply simply to meet the higher charges. By 1998, interest payments will be running Fr430m higher than in 1995 and the following year royalties and a management charge to Walt Disney begin a progressive rise.

Despite its persistent financial worries Euro Disney is planning an extravagant year-long celebration of its fifth birthday this year and has ambitious plans for the 1300 hectares of its 2000 hectare site that remain undeveloped.

Vodafone buys Peoples Phone in £77m deal

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Vodafone yesterday strengthened its grip on the UK's mobile phone market with a £77m "defensive" deal to buy Peoples Phone, the largest independent service provider. The company also gave an upbeat assessment of the market's growth prospects.

In the group's second such acquisition in the space of four months it will take over Peoples Phone's 181 shops on top of its existing total of 230 and will add 395,000 subscribers. The chain made losses of £7.3m in 1995 which it blamed on the cost of its expansion programme. Vodafone will also take on £15m of debt.

Service providers buy up wholesale airtime from the big networks and sell it to consumers. Vodafone emerged as the most successful bidder in competition with Cellnet and Orange. Some 94 per cent of Peoples Phone's customers were already on the Vodafone network.

In July Vodafone paid £33.6m to buy up the remaining two thirds of the Talkland chain which it did not already own. The deal, which also involved it taking over debts of almost £30m, brought its total number of subscribers signed up through service providers to more than 1.1 million.

The purchase of Peoples Phone will bring a cash windfall worth more than £3m to the four individual shareholders who provided the original capital to start the company in 1988. Three directors who provided seedcorn investment, Nigel Wray, Peter Whitfield and Robert Tanner, together make around £2.5m, while Charles Wigoder, the former chief executive, will earn some £58,000. In addition it represents a profit of £9.8m for the main shareholder, merchant bankers

Singer & Friedlander, which built up a 30 per cent stake over the past three years.

However, it represents a crushing blow to the company's initial ambitions to raise around £200m from a stock market listing. Tony Solomon, chairman of Peoples Phone and of Singer & Friedlander, insisted the deal, arranged by the Swiss banking group UBS, was still a good one.

It also emerged that Mr Wigoder has settled his claim against Peoples Phone for unfair dismissal following the decision to pull the flotation. He was also being sued by his former employer with allegations of accounting irregularities. Mr Solomon declined to give details of the settlement.

Sir Gerald Wheat, Vodafone's outgoing chief executive, admitted the purchase was a defensive move. He said the deal made sense "when another organisation holds a large number of your subscribers and puts itself on the market... We would have to think of 400,000 of our customers falling into the wrong hands."

The announcement came as Vodafone, which leads the UK market, revealed a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of September to £232.4m. In an more upbeat assessment of the UK mobile phone business, it claimed customers spending levels were stabilising after a severe price war earlier this year.

Revenue per customer also fell from £481 to £430, though Vodafone said this was better than its forecast of a drop to just over £400.

The so-called churn rate, the rate at which customers move to other networks, rose from 25 per cent to 27.34 per cent as many subscribers switched to the digital service from the old analogue system.

The shares rose 10.5p to 254p.

Second weekly draw set as Camelot profits slump

Tom Stevenson
City Editor

The first midweek National Lottery draw will be held on 5 February 1997. Camelot said yesterday. The Wednesday jackpot is expected to settle at about £4m, cannibalising the Saturday draw slightly but increasing the game's weekly income from its current £69m to over £80m.

News of the second weekly draw emerged as Camelot reported a sharp drop in profits for the 24 weeks to September, following a slump in demand for the Instant scratchcards which were launched just prior to the

comparable period in 1995. After weekly sales of £44m in their first few weeks, turnover has settled at about £17m.

In contrast to the rapid fall in Instant sales, which Camelot chief executive Tim Holley said was expected and a better performance than other lotteries around the world, sales of tickets for the main weekly draw actually rose by 2 per cent during the period to £1.88bn as the Lottery continued to exert a strong grip on the UK's £24bn a year gaming industry.

Total sales in the half year were £2.1bn, of which over £1bn went in prizes. £568m was distributed to good causes

and £270m was taken by the Government in tax. Sales in the comparable six-month period were £2.51bn.

The sharp fall in sales was reflected in a fall in pre-tax profits from £36.2m to £31.5m at Camelot, 90 per cent of which is owned in equal proportions by Cadbury Schweppes, De La Rue, GfJech and Rascal. The remaining 10 per cent is held by ICL, the computer company owned by Fujitsu of Japan. The consortium of owners shared in a £10m dividend.

Sir George Russell, chairman, said the Lottery had been highly successful since its launch in November 1994. In its first

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY - KEY FACTS

Average weekly sales	£69m, up 17% since launch
Sales since launch	£6,956m
Donations to good causes	£2,493m
Unclaimed prize amount to	£58.9m
Largest jackpot to date	£42m (3 winners)
Winners of more than £1m	288
Average spend by social class	AB - £2.32 CI - £2.67

90% of adult population have played the lottery
All figures - November 1994 - October 1996

two years, he said, a total of £3.7bn had been generated for the country - £2.5bn for good causes in the arts, sport, heritage, charities and the Millennium fund, and £1.2bn in tax.

More than £3bn has been paid out in prizes, with 533 jackpots scored out of the total 127 million winners. About two thirds of the adult population play the Lottery regularly, with members of C2 social class

spending marginally more per head. The game is most popular in the North-east where the average weekly spend per play is £3.15 compared with £2.33 in London and only £2.03 in the South-west.

To counter criticisms that the Lottery encourages excessive gambling and makes excessive profits Camelot has established a charitable foundation, which it expects to put £5m into this year.

Kleinwort seeks fresh investment goals

Roger Trapp

Kleinwort Benson is seeking to counter the City's reputation for basing investment decisions purely on financial criteria. It is launching a fund that will buy stock in companies that pay attention to a wide range of stakeholders and other aspects of the "inclusive approach" put forward by the Royal Society for the encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce inquiry "Tomorrow's Company".

The Kleinwort Benson Tomorrow's Company Exempt Trust, launched yesterday by the firm's investment management arm, is seeking to give investors "superior, sustainable, long-term returns" at a time when in-

flation and gross domestic product are expected to show only minimal growth.

The announcement of the fund follows research by Kleinwort Benson Investment Management showing that a model portfolio of companies fitting the RSA team's criteria would have significantly outperformed the FTSE All-Share index between December 1992 and June 1996.

Brennan Horms, chief investment officer at Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, said that the investment process behind this model complemented the firm's research-based approach to fund management.

Paul Sheehan, who will manage the new fund's investments,

shows that the European unit trust sector as a whole performed poorly over the period, falling 4.42 per cent.

Peter Jeffreys, managing director of Fund Research, an independent company that monitors the industry, said the weakness in the European sector could largely be explained by the strength of sterling in recent weeks.

Deutsche has pledged to compensate any investors who have lost out because of the actions of Mr Young, who is now under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. Investors

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Morgan's fallen stars bottom of class

Jul Treanor
Banking Correspondent

The once top performing funds run by Morgan Grenfell are languishing at the bottom of the league tables after the Peter Young affair, despite receiving a £180m cash injection by Deutsche, the German bank that owns the fund management group.

At the start of September Morgan Grenfell suspended trading for three days in the three star funds in which 90,000 people had invested £1.4bn. Investors in the funds - Europa,

European Growth and European Capital Growth - have since redeemed at least £180m of their holdings.

The Europa fund, managed by Stewart Armer, who is not directly implicated in the scandal but who had made similar investments in high-technology stocks like Mr Young, was the top performing fund in its sector until the start of the year.

However, it is now ranked 127th out of the 130 similar funds tracked by Mirocal, the company that measures the performance of funds.

The value of Europa has

fallen 9.74 per cent since 9 September, the start of the first full week of trading after the dealing suspension was lifted.

The value of the European Growth Fund, managed by Mr Young, fell 6.41 per cent over the same period putting it in 110th place.

Until the start of the year it was the sector's second most successful fund.

The performance record of the other fund formerly managed by Mr Young, European Capital Growth, is not available from Mirocal.

However, the Mirocal data

shows that the European unit trust sector as a whole performed poorly over the period, falling 4.42 per cent.

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Under investigation: Peter Young the ex-fund manager

business

Allied Colloids pays \$390m for chemical firm

Magnus Grimond

Allied Colloids is mounting its biggest acquisition with the \$390m (£233m) purchase of CPS Chemical Company, a US supplier of chemical intermediates to the Bradford-based group. To help pay for the deal, Allied is tapping shareholders for £175m in its first rights issue for 20 years.

The sale will net \$187m for Phil Meisel, the man who founded the CPS business in 1955 and whose family still controls 96 per cent of the shares. His sons are less involved in the business and at the age of 69, he has decided to retire. He will be retained by Allied as a consultant for a year.

The move was generally well received by the stock market yesterday, despite the simultaneous announcement of a modest 4 per cent rise in interim profits to £21.1m. Allied's shares fell just 5p to 138p, well above the rights terms. Shareholders are being offered two new shares at 118p each for every seven held, with the rights fully underwritten by Kleinwort Benson.

The acquisition follows a period of management change at Allied Colloids, including the imminent retirement of chairman Sir Trevor Holdsworth and the appointment 18 months ago of David Farrar, who previously ran the group's North American arm for four years. Mr Farrar said CPS had been a long-term acquisition target for some time. The two companies had built up a close relationship in the eight years CPS had been supplying Allied and the latter was its largest customer, representing 14 per cent of annual sales.

Like Allied, CPS is involved in water soluble polymers, although its products come at an earlier stage in the supply



Calling it a day: Sir Trevor Holdsworth will shortly be retiring as Allied Colloids makes its biggest acquisition

chain. Mr Farrar claimed CPS leads the world in its niche, with products used in the treatment of effluent, drinking water and to maintain cleanliness in boilers and cooling towers, amongst other applications. Customers include the mining, oil and water treatment industries.

"It brings us into a market which has grown at some 10 to 15 per cent over the past five years," Mr Farrar said. CPS would "enhance our core chemistry" and bring synergies. Over the next year or two, the combined purchasing power of the groups would allow them to buy at lower prices, while the US group's reach could be extended

to Europe and the Far East using Allied's 400-man sales force. Currently 78 per cent of sales are within the US.

He dismissed the loss of business from two customers, including the French group Floerger, its main rival, after they decided to build their own intermediates plant at the end of 1995. That has hit results this year, but the £23m of lost sales had since been more than made up elsewhere and Floerger had returned as a customer.

Allied said that, after exceptional charges in the past 30 months, underlying profits rose 17 per cent in the six months to September.

De La Rue facing a credibility gap

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

De La Rue has had things too easy for too long. The group's sharp rise in profits in the early 1990s was brought to a shuddering halt last year and two trading warnings have brought the shares to their level four years ago. Many of the problems lie in the recent upsurge in new capacity attracted into the lucrative commercially-supplied banknote market, which De La Rue dominates.

De La Rue can hardly be blamed for that. But it also enjoyed a one-off and unrepeatable boost from the break-up of the Russian monopoly on banknote production in the former Soviet empire. It produced the paper money for the newly independent states and helped them to build their own state-owned printing plants.

The chickens have come home to roost over the 30 months as bank notes margins have tumbled, but De La Rue was calling the turn yesterday. Reporting pre-tax profits down 13 per cent for the six months to September to £60.3m, chief executive Jeremy Marshall said there were signs that pricing was stabilising. Indeed prices are showing a rise of around 4 per cent in the latest six months, giving the group the confidence to raise the interim dividend by 3.4 per cent to 7.5p.

There was also encouraging news from Portals, the security paper company acquired last year for a net £54m after disposals. That business raised its profits a third to around £13.5m in the period. Meanwhile, Garmy, the German safes to cash handling business, appears to be recovering from the competition which hit it last year, with profits up from £700,000 to £1.6m in the six months, and US orders are returning despite the continuing disruption from bank mergers.

But De La Rue still has something of a credibility gap to overcome. Far from increasing barriers to entry and so widening margins, adding gizmos to banknotes like optically variable ink, which changes colour depending on the angle of view, has actually squeezed returns as the prices charged have not covered the increased cost. Margins in the security paper and print division, De La Rue's most profitable, have accordingly slumped from close to 26 per cent to just over 21 per cent.

In the long run, the group still has plenty going for it. Holograms on bank notes and "smart" chips on payment cards, another market it dominates, should provide differentiation and a spur to growth.

The extra £4.7m spent in the half year on development of new products in cash handling should also deliver long-term benefits, even if it hits returns

in the latest period. But profits are likely to fall again to £135m this year, putting the shares, up 3.5p to 558.5p, on a forward multiple of 13. Hold for the long term.

Vodafone keeps rivals at bay

Judging by Vodafone's half-yearly results yesterday, confidence is tentatively returning to the mobile phone market, turned on its head early this year when Vodafone and Cellnet, threatened by the upstart Orange, launched a massive price war. The result was a period of damaging turbulence, as all four networks signed up customers who wanted the kudos of owning a mobile phone but apparently didn't want to make any calls on it. Average spend per customer was on its way down from around £600 in 1994 to somewhere approaching £400 depending on the operator.

At first glance Vodafone's figures, despite a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £525m, show all the scars of battle.

Its customer base grew by just 203,000 in the half-year to the end of September, down from 371,000 the previous year. Cash earned from each subscriber also fell from £481 to £430, while it is having to pay more to service providers, the retailers who sell mobile phone airtime, to persuade customers to sign up.

Yet Vodafone has come off better than its three rivals, most particularly by pulling out a huge lead over Orange in the digital market. As Sir Gerald Whent, the group's retiring chief executive, strongly pointed out, in January Vodafone had just 17,000 more digital subscribers than Orange, whereas now the lead has stretched to 300,000. Orange would no doubt argue that its customers are fast becoming more loyal and spend more, but the fact remains that Vodafone has strengthened its role as market leader, backed up by much greater marketing muscle.

Seen in this light its £77m takeover of Peoples Phone, which admittedly made losses of £7.3m last year, seems a sensible defensive move. The second source of strength which singles out Vodafone is its international expansion,

which turned in a profit, including exceptional costs, for the first time.

Vodafone forecasts the UK market will grow next year at 20-25 per cent, about the same rate as 1996. The business is likely to remain as competitive as ever, however, and prospective earnings growth in the low to mid-teens make the shares, up 11.5p to 254p, look pricey on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 23 falling to 20.

Unigate delivers under pressures

No one can accuse Ross Buckland of inaction during his tenure as Unigate's chief executive. Non-core businesses such as the US restaurants have been sold along with the stake in Nutricia, the baby foods business, last year. Unigate is now focused on food and the Wincanton distribution division. Investors are waiting for the next move.

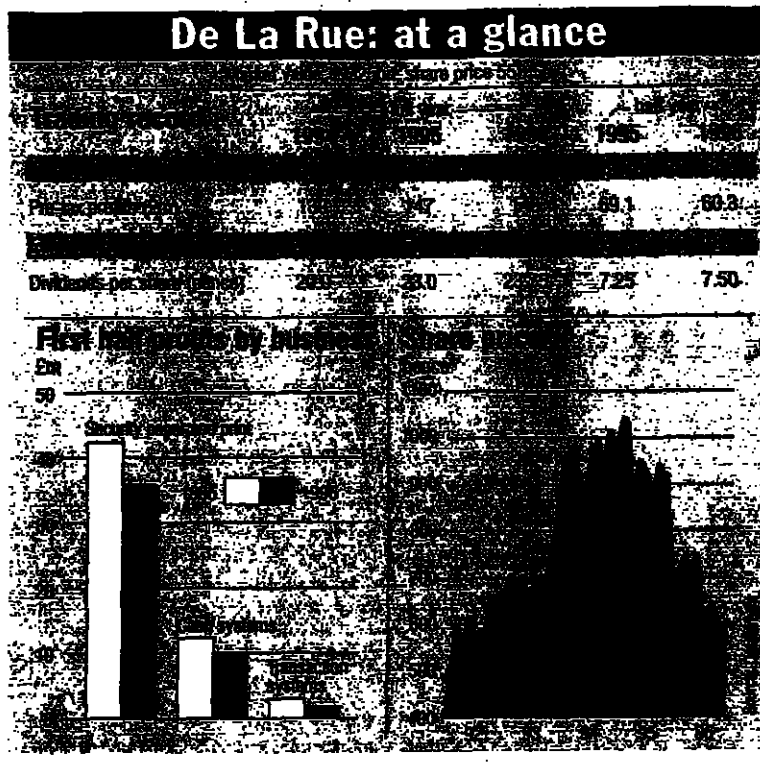
The sale of the Nutricia stake for £300m was a year ago now and very little of the cash has been spent. Unigate had £56m of cash at the end of the half year, a figure that will rise to the best part of £130m at the year end.

Management is clearly looking for a deal. A US deal has more or less been ruled out as Unigate would be a small player in a large market. A continental European operation to strengthen Wincanton is the likely option.

Though the company admits it has funds for a "sizeable acquisition" Mr Buckland is unlikely to hurry a deal as the performance in the core business is steady. Pre-tax profits were flat at £60m due to lower prices of butter and milk powder products as well as the absence of the Nutricia contribution.

The fresh foods division, which includes the St Ivel and Malton pig meat businesses, performed strongly with profits 29 per cent higher. However, the dairy business continues to be affected by lower doorstep deliveries. These were 11 per cent down on the previous year though the rate of decline is slowing. A further problem was the loss of a supermarket customer which caused supermarket sales to fall by 2.4 per cent. Wincanton continues to win new distribution contracts, with Argos, Lever Brothers and Mars among the latest recruits.

Assuming full year profits of £126m, Unigate shares - up 2p at 432p yesterday - trade on a forward rating of 11. There are competitive pressures, such as Unilever attempting to build its margarine market share, but the shares look good value.



Norcros back on dividend list

Patrick Toohar

Norcros, the industrial conglomerate in the process of unbundling itself, yesterday returned to the dividend list but indicated that long-suffering shareholders may have to wait up to two years for cash to be returned to them.

A special payment to investors has been promised once Norcros completes the sale of its printing and packaging operations to concentrate on ceramics, adhesives and Triton showers activities.

But the disposal of the two remaining printing and packaging businesses - Norprint and Autotype - has been put on hold and yesterday Joe Matthews, chief executive, indicated no sale was imminent.

"The dividend does not fit in with our long-term plans, but there is more to do before they are in good enough shape to sell. Until we reach a positive cash position share buybacks or a special dividend are really a non-issue," he said, noting the balance sheet still contained debt.

Mr Matthews added that a £20m priority portfolio still had to be unwound, which could

take "between 18 months and two years" to complete.

Results for the six months to September showed a net £46m was raised from the sale of two printing and packaging businesses that eliminated the deficit on reserves and allowed Norcros to pay a 1p interim dividend - its first payout for two years.

Norcros also reported a 17 per cent rise in operating profit to £6.9m for the group's continuing operations. Pre-tax profits were £51.2m, boosted by the £45.8m in exceptional gains from disposals.

Net borrowings fell by £30m to just under £17m, or 11 per cent of shareholders' funds, versus gearing of 37 per cent in March.

Despite the disappointing news on a special payment, shares in Norcros - as high as 400p in the late Eighties - closed 4p higher at 93p.

Norcros, which escaped a £570m takeover bid from Williams, the industrial conglomerate in 1987, has undergone almost continuous restructuring since Michael Doherty succeeded John Redwood, the former Conservative Party leadership candidate, a year later.

Surprise profits rise boosts BOC

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

BOC, the industrial gases group, yesterday surprised the stock market with a better-than-expected jump in earnings, just three months after a veiled profits warning triggered a big share price drop.

The latest news, which sent the group's shares surging by more than 5 per cent, was accompa-

nied by a plea from Danny Rosenkranz, the recently appointed chief executive, that BOC had been "misunderstood".

"To say we're frustrated with the market is a bit strong, but we are clearly disappointed," he complained. "The task we have set is to explain our strategy in more depth. We are a lot more exciting than we are seen to be."

BOC's profits in the year to the end of September were a record £444.9m, while turnover increased by 7 per cent to £4.02bn. The company declared a 7.4 per cent increase in its dividend for the year ahead to 25p.

Gas analysts apparently took the plea to heart, with shares closing up 44.5p at 880.5p.

Mr Rosenkranz insisted his profits warning in August had been widely misinterpreted. At the time BOC mentioned prob-

lems in its Edwards vacuum products division following the drop in growth at some of its biggest customers, the leading computer chip manufacturers.

The company revealed yesterday a 28 per cent increase in operating profits to £90.3m for the vacuum products business.

Though some orders from the semiconductor industry were likely to be deferred, the business remained highly profitable.

Warning by Country Casuals hits shares

Nigel Cope

Country Casuals, the women's wear retailer, was looking distinctly frayed at the edges yesterday when it issued a profits warning just a month after disappointing first-half figures.

The company warned investors that this year's profit would be "materially below" forecasts and said it would not be recommending the payment of a final dividend.

Country Casuals' shares plunged 36p to 64p on the news, their lowest point since the com-

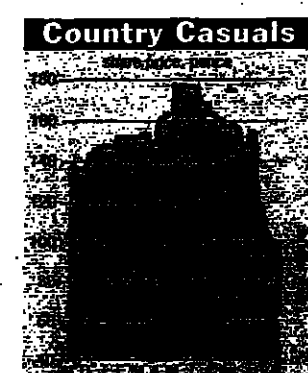
pany came to the market in 1992, fuelling speculation that it could again become a takeover target. It is only a year since Country Casuals successfully fought off a £27m bid from former chief executive John Shannan which valued the group at 140p per share.

Management blamed the latest setback on a "significant deterioration" in trading since its interim results in October. Full year profits will now be "not less" than £1.8m compared with previous forecasts of £2.4m.

While the core Country Ca-

suals stores have reported strong trading in recent weeks, Elvi, the new chain aimed at larger women, has not been able to sustain the year-on-year growth of the first half. Lerose Manufacturing, the troublesome garment manufacturing subsidiary, continues to rack up monthly losses.

Mark Bunce, chief executive, said: "I feel this is a short-term issue. We've got a core business [Country Casuals] that made profits of £2.5m last year. The problem is we have a start-up business [Elvi] and a manufacturing division that are dragging



that down at the moment," Mr Bunce said Elvi needed to grow sales to move into profitability.

While like-for-like sales increases were running at 24 per cent in October, they have since slowed to 10-15 per cent. Elvi has grown to a 56 strong chain since its formation three years ago.

Living without George Michael at a Capital bash

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

To the opening of Capital Radio's new radio theme restaurant in London's Leicester Square, where despite the non-appearance of the star guest, George Michael, a fab time was had by all.

With Tamara Beckwith, Lionel Richie, Chris Rea and David Seaman to rub shoulders with, not to mention a scribe or two from the Independent, who needs George Michael anyway?

I say all, but Richard Eyre, Capital's Bible-bashing chief executive was looking decidedly grumpy as the hacks and other assembled free-loaders downed his champagne in copious quantities.

What on earth's the matter? It transpires that he's still feeling mighty peeved at the generally poor press he received last week for his £51m acquisition of the My Kinda Town restaurant chain. "That was a very poor show indeed. Whatever hap-

pened to recognition of bold management," he complained bitterly.

Who knows? Maybe he's right after all and radio will mix well with the restaurant trade. Looks as if he's onto a winner with the Leicester Square site, in any case.

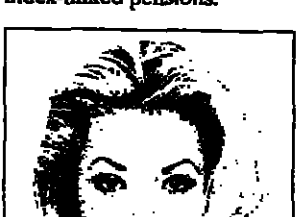
Student protests, once characterised by tear gas and calls for the overthrow of capitalism, aren't what they used to be. Consider this. Peter Rosengard, the life assurance salesman who helped found the Comedy Store in London, has just been interviewed for a television programme about contrasts between the so-called 1980s and insecure 1990s.

In the Carlton show, *The Big Story*, which goes out this Thursday, Mr Rosengard gives this example of how times have changed.

"I was driving along Oxford Street when I saw a student demo. I slowed down to

hear what they were chanting, and it went: 'What do we want? - Pensions! - When do we want them? - Now!'

Nothing about LBJ or down with Thatcher. Just a blood-curdling demand for index-linked pensions.



Tamara Beckwith: Available to rub shoulders with

Whatever next? Student demos calling for relaxation of VAT thresholds?

The Eric Cantona Quote of the Week Award goes to Lord Runciman of Dorset, deputy chairman of SIB, who delivered the Securities Institute annual lecture last night.

At one point in his speech on regulation Lord Runciman quoted this Cantona-like German proverb: "What happens when two ogress meet in the forest? Both smile."

Later he went one better and quoted a Greek proverb: "Lame ducks don't open Pandora's boxes." But his Lordship admitted he had made the second one up.

Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, chairman of Tesco, and Sir Brian Corby, former

chairman of the Pru, will exchange honours this Thursday in an academic version of pass the parcel.

Lord MacLaurin will be formally installed as Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire during a ceremony in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban. He succeeds Sir Brian, who in keeping with the traditional ceremony will hand over a scroll to the Tesco chief as a symbol of his leadership.

Following the handover of leadership, Sir Brian will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree. Elite long-serving members of De La Rue, the maker of bank notes, can join the Delarumarian Club, I hear. The club consists of 81 employees, all of whom have worked at De La Rue for 37 years. Next year is the 50th anniversary of the club.

Apparently the company has a high proportion of long-term employees be-

cause of the technical expertise involved in making forgery-proof bank notes. Sources inform me that one of the key topics of conversation during the annual lunch in London is which members have died since the last one. Sadder still, the Delarumarian was for employees of 40 years' duration, but staff turnover has led to a lowering of the age specification.

Brownie Curtis, described by colleagues as "a glamorous, dynamic former ballet dancer", is joining Nomura as chief economist from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, where she was global head of foreign exchange and fixed income strategy.

Mrs Curtis is a graduate in economics and mathematics from La Trobe University in Australia and then completed an MSc at the London School of Economics.

John Willcock

IN BRIEF

Enterprise Inns confirmed it would be interested in buying pubs from Bass if, as rumoured, it is forced to sell up to 1,000 in return for regulatory clearance of its proposed takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley. Enterprise reported a 50 per cent rise in profit before tax and exceptional items in its first full-year figures since last November's flotation. Underlying profits of £8.5m compared with 1995's £5.6m. Enterprise, which came to the market at 145p, closed yesterday 12p higher at 250.5p.

Shares in Vision Group, the camera microchip group, soared 22 per cent to 324.5p yesterday when the company said three new contracts would lead to sharply higher volumes this year. The new business has led the group to raise £11.5m through a three-for-19 rights issue priced at 23p. Vision will need to expand and relocate its Edinburgh head office. Vision announced increased losses of £2.5m for the year to July compared with a £1.6m loss last year.

Azlan, the computer services group, is paying up to £29.6m for Akam, a Dutch network computer training specialist. The deal will be funded by a three-for-10 rights issue at 620p a share, raising £48.5m. Azlan's interim figures showed a 74 per cent increase in turnover to £127m and pre-tax profits rose to £6m from £4.4m.

Porvair, which makes synthetic microporous materials, saw its shares crash 68.5p to 196.5p yesterday after its second profits warning in four months. The shares are at less than half their 12-month high of 431p. The company said it would not make profits this year of more than £4.2m, much lower than analysts' expectations of up to £7m. Analysts said yesterday they believed the fundamental attractions of the stock remained, however, and some used the sharp fall to change their recommendation to buy.

Ian Plenderleith, an executive director of the Bank of England, told a conference in London yesterday that there was no reason to think staying out of the single European currency would harm the City. He gave six reasons why London would retain its international position. The City has role in global, as opposed to European markets. Improvements in the Continental markets so far have increased business in London. Despite the uncertainties about UK membership of Emu, foreign banks have continued to expand in the City. Economies of scale in financial activity favour concentration in London. The City has the advantage of the English language and time zone. And, finally, its financial infrastructure has continued to improve.

NatWest Bank yesterday announced plans to issue £300m of 15-year subordinated notes. The notes bear an interest rate of 8.125 per cent for the first 10 years and at 1.6 per cent over five-year Treasury stock for the remaining five years.

Company Results				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Adam & Harvey (F)	24.2m (27.3m)	2.55m (2.54m)	34.6p (30.8p)	12.25p (11.5p)
Allied Colloids (F)	206m (191m)	21.1m (20.3m)	2.84p (2.61p)	0.94p (0.87p)
Adren (F)	128m (72.7m)	6.0m (4.4m)	15p (13.6p)	1.3p (1.2p)
Bell Bros (F)	38.3m (33.5m)	5.02m (5.57m)	33.27p (28.83p)	5.6p (5.1p)
BOC (F)	4.02bn (3.73bn)	445m (402m)	57.74p (51.97p)	14.5p (13.5p)
Canalclit (F)	2.08m (2.51m)	31.5m (32.2m)	-	-
Canalclit (F)	84.5m (73.2m)	3.75m (2.80m)	20.28p (15.98p)	9.8p (8.5p)
De La Rue (F)	141m (128m)	60.3m (58.1m)	15.7p (13.1p)	7.5p (7.2p)
EMI Group (F)	1.47bn (1.44bn)	113m (102m)	20.28p (15.98p)	9.8p (8.5p)
Enterprise Inns (F)	38.1m (24.8m)	5.34m (5.56m)	10.34p (14.3p)	6.7p (6.1p)
European Colours (F)	10.3m (10.2m)	1.48m (1.36m)	2.41p (2.55p)	0.80p (0.77p)
Ferraris (F)	18.1m (13.2m)	1.43m (0.93m)	9.7p (6.4p)	2.8p (2.6p)
Gill Thomson (F)	3.0m (2.74m)	0.96m (0.40m)	2.7p (0.9p)	-
Great Portland Est (F)	-	21.9m (23.8m)	5.1p (5.6p)	2.6p (2.8p)
Manitex Brewery (F)	79.8m (74.2m)	10.5m (9.5m)	11.6p (10.3p)	2.1p (1.9p)
Merchand Retail (F)	25.4m (24.3m)	-0.30m (-0.33m)	-0.28p (-0.70p)	-
Norcross (F)	115m (100m)	57.2m (50.7m)	28.5p (26.0p)	10.0p (9.0p)
Polly Portfolio (F)	11.8m (8.1m)	0.5m (0.7m)	4.6p (3.2p)	4p (3.5p)
Rohm Group (F)	30.2m (28.3m)	2.3m (2.5m)	1.72p (1.89p)	0.6p (0.5p)
Unigate (F)	1.14bn (937m)	60.8m (60.8m)	19p (18.8p)	7.5p (7.2p)
Vision Group (F)	4.43m (1.73m)	-2.33m (-1.50m)	-7.38p (-5.61p)	-
Whitworth (F)	74.1m (68.8m)	2.7m (3.4m)	4.4p (5p)	1.75p (1.25p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (M) - Nine months

**Law the
latest to
leave.
Sussex**

Sussex found themselves in turmoil yesterday when the talented all-rounder Danny Law became the third high-profile player to leave the Hove club.

Law, 21, who has joined Essex on a three-year contract, follows the leg-spinner Ian Salisbury, who has signed for Surrey, and the sacked Ed Giddins, now with Warwickshire.

And the exodus may not be over as their former captain Alan Wells has formally requested permission to speak to other counties and the batsman Martin Spaight is considering a move to Durham.

At the end of last season, Law was offered a new three-year deal and his move to Chelmsford follows a flight to Melbourne by the Sussex second XI coach and Law's former mentor Chris Waller in an attempt to talk him round.

Law had been with the club since he was 13 and last season enjoyed his best summer, scoring 609 runs in the Championship and taking 44 wickets. Jason Gallian was yesterday given the all-clear to stay on England A's tour of Australia after consulting the same specialist who treated Shane Warne's finger injury.

The Lancashire batsman was hit on the index finger of his right hand batting during the tourists' seven-wicket victory over the Australian Cricket Academy.

He was taken to a doctor yesterday in Melbourne after the 14-man party flew there to prepare for Friday's match with the state side Victoria at the Optus Oval. His manager, David Graveney, said: "It is just a question of getting over the pain he is suffering at present."

Gallian missed the two victories over South Australia in Adelaide with another hand injury he collected during the tour's opening game and is almost certain to miss the Victoria match.



Clive Lloyd: Searching for the 'right attitude' from West Indies players Photograph: Allsport

'Playing for your country was paramount – and so was winning. That's what I hope I can bring to this team'

Australia has loomed large in the cricketing life of Clive Lloyd. It was here in 1968-69, as a junior at the start of his long and distinguished career, that he witnessed the disintegration of the formidable West Indies team of that era.

It was here, eight years later in the apprenticeship of his captaincy, that he again experienced the ruthlessness of the Australians in a humbling 5-1 drubbing in the Test series.

It was here, under the toughening influence of Kerry Packard's World Series Cricket, that he moulded West Indian invincibility that was to last for 15 years.

It was here, in 1985, that he made his exit as the most successful captain the West Indies have had, a hero decorated with a sheath of honours, significantly among them the Order of Australia.

Now Lloyd returns with as daunting a challenge as he has had to face. He was summoned from his home in England last February to be manager of the West Indies team shaken to the core in the previous 18 months by indifference, indiscipline and internal division.

It led to the loss, on home turf, of the cherished Frank Worrell Trophy to determined Australian opponents and a general upheaval in which captain, coach, manager, board president and, most recently, selectors were all changed.

Lloyd has brought with him on his latest Australian venture as coach and right-hand man, Malcolm Marshall, one of the fast-bowling enforcers during the West Indies' period of dominance.

Both have the advantage not only of reputation and of proven record but of being divorced from the problems that led to the resignation of the captain Richie Richardson and the

So says Clive Lloyd, talking to **Tony Cozier** in Brisbane. Lloyd is charged with reviving West Indies' fortunes in the Test series against Australia, which starts on Friday.

replacement of the coach, Andy Roberts, during the World Cup.

They take over the running of the Test team, on three-year contracts, seeking to regain the world trophy at a time when the new board is making an obvious and concerted effort to break free of the complacency brought

"We are moving in the right direction," Lloyd said. "We allowed things to lapse there for a while and the other countries like Australia and South Africa put things in place to improve

The future that Lloyd is most concerned about is immediate and starts here on Friday with the first Test of five in a series that Lloyd, and everyone else, recognises as being the West Indies' sternest examination since his own side was thrashed 2-0 in 1978.

hope I can bring to this team," he says.

In the jingoism they have borrowed from American sport, the Australians are calling the series "The Decider" and, no matter what the Pakistanis, South Africans or Indians say about it, Lloyd and almost everyone else in these parts is in no doubt that the victors can justifiably claim to be Test cricket's unofficial champions.

This series is going to be tough, there's no doubt about that," says "I'm looking for enthusiastic play, players who are not afraid to go out and face the world, players like Brian Lara who came here last time (in 1992-93) and wanted to do something and be something. "I'm looking for the commit-

ted player, the dedicated player," he added. "The appropriate catchphrase would be 'if you want to gain altitude, you must have the right attitude.'"

The commitment and dedication, noticeably absent in the loss to Australia in the Caribbean last year, are the assets that Lloyd instilled in his players in his 10 years as captain.

While four of their batsmen average over 50 in Tests it is Lara to whom they look for runs, and it is not a misplaced theory that when he fails the team fails.

Australia look equally as much for their success to the spinning fingers of Shane Warne and one of the most essential of those fingers is still getting over the effects of an operation last May. He has bowled plenty in Sheffield Shield matches already this season with no after-effects.

Even so, the Australians have tremendous depth and a team effort, rather than the exploits of an individual or two, is likely to determine the series.

Australia's self-confidence took a dent last month when they lost the one-off Test and were beaten in five one-day internationals in India. What psychological effect those reversals had will be seen over the coming days but the strength of their young brigade was evident in the complete dominance of their reserves, playing under the banner of an Australian XI, in a crushing 10-wicket victory over the West Indies at the weekend.

The Australians have stuck, understandably, with those who have made them the most consistent team in Test cricket over the past couple of years, introducing only one newcomer, Matthew Elliott, a tall left-handed opener from Victoria who has replaced Michael Slater through sheer weight of runs.

They have not lost a series at home since the West Indies were last here, four years ago. Even with Lloyd's influence on the opposition it is hard to see them losing this one.

FANTASY FOOTBALL

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

TOP FIFTY LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 10 NOVEMBER

POS.	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	John Cross	Southill F.C.	399
2	S. A. Scott	Foreign Back Bone	381
3	Chris Scott	Bruce Lee F.C.	389
4	Paul Gazzard	Chocolate Tea Pots	383
5	Aaron Jones	Cathryn 2	379
6	Adam Hogg	Biggly Hogg	378
7	S. King	Cruising Alexandra	378
8	Carl Britton	Maple Mousse E.	378
9	Steven Lawrence	Tessa's Little Marvels	378
9	Stephen Hart	Keen Cowboys	378
9	Andrew Burman	Wimbledon Stupid Heads	378
9	J.M. Self	Jolly City	378
13	Ian Boyle	—	377
14	D.J. Robinson	Bank For England	377
15	Paul Macbray	Championise	374
15	S. White	The Untouchables	374
15	Keth Horry	Organic Manure F. C.	374
15	C.M. Down	The Deas Reserves	374
15	G. Lake	Backer Of Eggs	374
15	David Robinson	Double B	374
15	Jonathan McCrossen	Washtops Army	374
15	Roberts Northcroft	I Know Your Wife	374
23	Peter Shelock	Lincoln St. Giles	373
23	M. Crisland	Osney C. Lyons	373
23	Peter Frankental	Ariensu	373
23	Mr. Stoddart	—	373
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THE INDEPENDENT

Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 14 (Wk 14) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 11 November - Sunday 17 November inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 17 November.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Inde-

pendent Fantasy Football teams and their winning matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 10 November.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday in the Independent on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday.

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

on Sunday. Terms and conditions are as previously published and are available upon request.

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 17 NOVEMBER. WEEK 14 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 11 - 17 NOVEMBER

GOAL KEEPERS										DEFENDERS										MIDFIELDERS										STRIKERS									
CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	Wk14	Points	Value	Wk14	Points	Value	Wk14	Points	Value	Wk14	Points	Value	Wk14	Points	Value	Wk14	Points	Value	Wk14	Points	Value	Wk14	Points	Value													
308	Seamus	DER	1	15	1.0	477	Ruddock	LIV	3	3	1.0	649	Simpson	DER	1	15	1.0	886	Hughes	CHE	0	0	1.0	944	Wright	WIM	1	15	1.0										
309	Bonach	AV	1	15	1.0	478	Harbison	LIV	3	3	1.0	650	Van Der Lant	DER	1	15	1.0	887	Wright	CHE	0	0	1.0	945	Wright	WIM	1	15	1.0										
310	Flowers	BLA	1	15	1.0	479	Norrie (C)	LIV	3	3	1.0	651	Ebdon	EVE	1	15	1.0	888	Wright	CHE	0	0	1.0	946	Wright	WIM	1	15	1.0										
311	Flowers	CHE	1	15																																			

Flood of pride as Quest parades

Like every other National Hunt trainer in Britain, Terry Casey has spent the last few weeks praying for rain. But at 1.15 yesterday he must have wished he had done so with a little less fervour. Standing in a downpour, radio-mike in hand, he talked a party of lunch guests and journalists through his best prospects for the coming season, as the animals in question squelched forlornly around the paddock and his audience admired them from the shelter of the marquee which was steadily disappearing into Casey's back garden. By the time half a dozen or so horses had paraded, the trainer was drenched, and had it not been for his stout rubber Wellingtons, the microphone might well have given him the shock of his life.

But then the final exhibit appeared, and it was as if the sun had come out. When you have the Grand National winner in your care even imminent hypothermia is easily ignored, and the pride with which Casey had discussed all of his charges rose by several notches. "This is Rough Quest," he said, "and he needs no introduction."

And what a sight he was. Every inch the champion of the soles of his hooves to the top of his heavy, muscular frame, last year's National winner and Gold Cup runner-up has recently started serious exercise and is, according to Casey, "as well as I've ever seen him". He should soon be ready for his prep-race before the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day, the first of three major targets in a projected campaign, which includes another attempt at both the Gold Cup and the National.

Greg Wood sees the Grand National winner step out for a new campaign

Just a few weeks ago, though, even the prep-race was hanging in the balance. "He came back so fresh and well, and he managed to bruise a tendon," Casey said. "Any tendon problem is a worry, particularly with such a heavy-topped horse, but Guy Harwood generously allowed us to use his swimming pool to exercise him and now he has been back cantering for two weeks."

As a result, Andrew Bates, Rough Quest's owner, can plot a path for his chaser which leads back to Aintree in April. "We won't go to the King George VI, unless he's had a run first," Bates said, "and the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow [on 7 December] is the most likely choice, but he's still a novice over hurdles, so we could even run him in a hurdle."

It is seven months since Bates, one of National Hunt's most enthusiastic owners, enjoyed the most important success of his life. Even now his pride has not started to dissipate, while the memory of the 20-minute stewards' inquiry into possible interference between Rough Quest and Encore Un Peu on the run-in is also fresh.

"It was a new level of stress," Bates said. "I was quite confident when I saw it side-on from the stands, but then Des Lynam showed me the head-on and it looked horrendous, and I thought it was going to be tight. But Rough Quest went by quite fast, and he was two or three lengths clear when he crossed over. He does go left, and always

has, so perhaps we need to school Mick Fitzgerald to carry his stick in his left hand."

The 27-runner field, which Rough Quest led home in April, was the smallest for the National in a quarter of a century. At Aintree racecourse, there is a keen desire to ensure that the numbers are not similarly depleted this year, and changes have been made to the conditions of the race. The top-weight in the handicap will rise to 12 stone, while at the overnight stage the maximum burden will be raised, if necessary, to 11st 10lb rather than 11st 7lb, to allow more runners into the handicap proper. These changes will apply to all handicap chases over three and a half miles or more.

At the same time, the minimum rating to qualify for the race will drop from 120 to 110, while the return from a two-week to three-week gap between the Cheltenham and Aintree Festivals should also boost the field, which will be racing for record added prize-money of £250,000. "Our objective is to attract class horses, while at the same time producing a field as close as possible to the safety number of 40," said Bates, Aintree's managing director, said.

It was hard to maintain a sense of humour in yesterday's downpour, but one observer managed to raise a smile. William Hill make Rough Quest their 16-1 favourite for the 1997 National, a race which is five months' distant and for which the weights will not be published until mid-February. Unbridled mirth at this derisory quote is restrained only by the thought that there may be punters out there who are daft enough to take it.



Reflections of greatness: Rough Quest is accompanied by his owner, Andrew Bates, (left) and trainer, Terry Casey, as he goes on show yesterday. Photograph: Peter Jay

Fine Suny prospects Royal return of £51 on the Tote for 5-1 winner

Hopes are high that normal service can be resumed for racing today despite the first cold snap of the winter. Each of the three tracks scheduled to race missed the worst of the weather which wiped out yesterday's Wetherby card.

No problems are expected at Haydock, which sees the reappearance of last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup third, Countess Be Better, in the Edward Hamner Memorial Chase. It is a similar story at Hereford, where the clerk of the

course, John Williams, said: "We had a bare covering of snow but it went in 10 minutes." And at Kempton a course spokesman explained: "We had quite a bit of snow but nothing settled because it was raining."

Nevertheless, Charlie Brooks is taking no chances over a prep-race for his leading Hennessey Cognac Gold Cup hope Suny Bay, whom he has declared for both the Limber Hill Chase at Kempton and the Edward Hamner at Haydock. Kempton is the preferred destination.

The Tote's racecourse manager, Jennifer Hurley, explained: "Our computer wouldn't talk to the Wigan computer for the

delayed opening race, he was returned at a starting-price of 5-1. But he paid £51.30 to a £1 stake on the Tote because of the computer fault at the track. Tote wagers were possible only via course-to-course betting at Newton Abbot and Wetherby and at betting shops.

Five days before his Japan Cup attempt, Heliosio was crowned champion of Europe last night in the sixth annual Cartier awards. The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, currently in Tokyo being prepared

for Sunday's £1m contest, was also acclaimed best three-year-old colt for winning most points in pattern races. Bossa Sham was top three-year-old filly.

The dual French Group One winner Revocque was champion two-year-old, although pattern-points gave Bahamian Bounty and Fas De Reponse the titles of best two-year-old colt and filly respectively.

Frankie Dettori received an award of merit in recognition of riding all seven winners at the Ascot Festival in September.

KEMPTON

HYPERION
12.50 Ragamuffin Romeo 120 The Power
1.50 Helena 2.50 Suny Bay 2.50 Chappas
3.20 Berude Not To 3.50 Quini Eagle

GOING: Good to Soft.
■ Right-hand course. Practically flat. Run-in of 200yd.
■ Course is an AOR at Kempton. Kempton Park railway station is 1/2 mile from the course. Club & Restaurant 5.10 (10 to 20 years old). Silver Ring 5.5. Accompanied children under-11 free. CAR PARK: Members 52; remainder free.

SIS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Super Tactics (1.21) won at Newbury on Wednesday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: High Grade (2.50) has been sent 150 miles by Mrs S Wilson from Woking, Surrey.

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1.00

HYPERION
1.00 Fursan 1.30 Miles Own 2.00 Glowing Path
2.50 What's Your Story 3.00 Lets Be Frank
3.50 Bishops Castle 4.00 Kosheen

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LONG-DISTANCE RUNN

CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Ferguson delighted by return of Irishman as Old Trafford welcomes visit of Juventus. **Glenn Moore** reports

Two of the Juventus players who overwhelmed United in Turin have since suffered serious injuries, Gianluca Pessotto (Achilles tendon) and Antonio Conte (knee ligament). A third, Christian Vieri, is likely to be dropped. Moreno Torricelli, Angelo Di Livio and Vladimir

■ Milan's long-serving sweeper Franco Baresi, who has missed all four of their Champions' League games this season and watched his side lose two of them, must hold the defence together at FC Porto tonight if his team are to set up a quarter-final against Juventus.

Juventus are open to offers for the gifted Alessandro Del Piero, who visits Old Trafford tonight

Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

This is the sort of thing that was being written about Ryan Giggs not so long ago. Now it is being said of Alessandro Del Piero, the gifted Juventus striker who hopes to play against Giggs and Manchester

niggling injuries and inconsistency have put even his club place in doubt. His selection tonight is likely to be due to Antonio Conte's injury rather than his own form.

Now, it appears, Juventus may be willing to take further advantage of English's football's profligate mood and sell Del Piero as they did Fabrizio Ravanelli. Given Del Piero's youth - he was 22 earlier this

Having grown up idolising Michel Platini – whose No 10 shirt he now wears – Del Piero signed for the Vecchia Signora from Padova at 18. He scored five goals in 11 games in his first season but was almost sold to Parma at the end of it. Dino Baggio went instead and Del

Quite a catch then – but who could afford him? As he prepared to put himself in the shop window tonight, Del Piero said: “I wouldn’t be surprised if an English club made a move for me. English football has undergone a vast expansion in terms of finance and skill levels. Also it is far less stressful to play in than Serie A. We’ll have to wait and see whether I go over.”

The Estonian authorities have chosen the Mediterranean island as their preferred venue

Venables' first duties with the national side will be during a four-team tournament here next January, involving Norway, South Korea and New Zealand. His mere presence is confidently expected to double the gates for that series of matches.



Terry Venables (left) is the new manager of the Soccerroos. So what has been the reaction to the appointment Down Under? **Dave Hadfield** reports from Sydney

in a country where three other codes of football have deeper roots - even the Soccer Australia chairman, David Hill, who clinched the Venables deal in Britain, is a refugee from rugby league where he used to run the North Sydney club - the other significance of the appoint-

That opens up the possibility of a further European adventure for a Socceroo squad already largely based on the opposite side of the world from home.

That makes Venables' desire to retain his English base a positive advantage, although Soccer Australia was at pains yesterday to stress that he will not be an absentee coach and will spend 45 per cent of his time in Australia. His time, both at home and abroad, will also be

Against that, football can claim to be the first code, founded 21 years ago, to have a truly national competition, even though it is often sparsely supported. They bridle here at suggestions that Venables is going into a football wilderness.

The former Socceroo goalkeeper Jack Reilly summed it up when he described Venables' impending appointment as "a slap in the face for the people involved in the game in Australia".

After his profile in Britain that might even come as some relief for Venables, but his expensive acquisition will not be considered a success unless football here soon has more recognition to show for its efforts.

AUSTRALIANS PLAYING IN ENGLAND			
FR CARLING PREMIERSHIP			
Mark Bennett	Manchester Utd to Aston Villa	Free	
John Flinn	Cambridge to Coventry City	£30,000	
Adam Poric	St George's Budapest to Sheffield Wed.	£50,000	
Robbie Slater	West Ham to Southampton	£250,000	
Chris Coyne	Pain Oo to West Ham	£50,000	
Stan Lazaridis	W Adelaide to West Ham	£30,000	
Steve Mawhood	Conchona Cairns to West Ham	£35,000	
NATIONALIST FIRST DIVISION			
Andy Petterson	Leeds to Charlton	£55,000	
Kevin McManis	Sutton Marnock to Crystal Palace	£20,000	
Paul West	Sheffield Utd to Crystal Palace	£200,000	
Andrew McDermott	Australian Institute of Sport to QPR	Free	
Andy Bernal	Sydney Olympic to Reading	£30,000	
SECOND DIVISION			
Paul Agostino	Young Boys Berns to Bristol City	£50,000	
David Gifford	Leeds to Bristol City	£30,000	
Jason Keatman	Everton to Bristol City	Unknown	
Lucas Nelli	Australian Institute of Sport to Millwall	Free	
Jason Van Slerk	Go Ahead to Millwall	£300,000	
Shane Murphy	Perth Gladiators to Notts County	£4,500	
Richard Johnson	Widford	From tranee	
THIRD DIVISION			
Steve Rhodes	US University to Leyton Orient	Free	

Pressman insists that Wednesday now have to start setting their sights high since they are back up to ninth place in the table.

ternazionale last month, finally found the finishing touch that had been lacking in previous outings and which looked beyond Wednesday for 63 minutes last night.

Crossley admits that they are going through a crisis of confidence, adding: "It's all about getting that win to restore our belief."

Wolves they are now looking to relaunch their campaign to climb into the Premiership.

After Birmingham's success the Wolves manager Mark

Steve Corica has been recalled to the squad and the former England midfielder Geoff Thomas is in contention to start.

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West Indies' saviour
The indomitable Clive Lloyd
on a mission, page 28

sport

Troubled talent
Alessandro Del Piero's
hard times, page 30

Evans eager to deliver derby blow

Football

Liverpool may have failed to win in their last four meetings with Everton, but the Anfield club's manager, Roy Evans, will be expecting a reversal of fortune in tonight's 155th Merseyside League derby.

Joe Royle's arrival at Everton two years ago this month was marked by a 2-0 victory over Liverpool, with Duncan Ferguson spearheading the assault. Since then the Goodison manager has secured two draws and an Anfield win, with Andrei Kanchelskii's double securing a 2-1 success in the corresponding fixture last season.

With Liverpool's challenge for the Premiership gaining momentum, there is more than a matter of local pride, and personal revenge, at stake for Evans.

"This is not just another game," Evans said. "It's a derby match and it means a great deal for the football fans of this city. On one hand we've got to make sure we don't get too carried away by the occasion, but on the other we have to show passion and pride, especially so after last year when Everton beat us at Anfield."

"Everton have enjoyed a good run against us, but these things happen in football and we've had good spells in some of the games without coming away with a victory."

Evans has a glittering array of talent at his disposal, with more than £15m worth of it expected to be sat on the bench in the shape of Stan Collymore, Patrick Bergin and Phil Babb.

Yet Evans knows that his stylish side must be prepared to take on and counter Everton's robust manner. "There is a squad of 16 and I won't be making mass changes, although there are one or two options that I will use if I decide they are right for us."

added Evans, who brought back Jamie Redknapp and Neil Ruddock at Leeds on Saturday and saw them both excel in a 2-0 victory.

"But whatever team we put out, it's important that they show full commitment for the full 90 minutes, because that's the one thing you can't do without in a derby."

"Once you have battled you hope that the football will then come through and it would be nice if we could win this one, both for local pride and to maintain our position in the League."

Royle faces even more pressing selection problems as he agonises over whether to make changes to the side that humbled Southampton 7-1 on Saturday.

Ferguson is ready to return after a two-month absence with a knee injury that required surgery and Royle admits he is tempted to recall the £4m Scottish striker, who he describes as "a big-game player".

The Everton manager has already showed that he is not afraid to change a winning team and the prospect of linking Ferguson with the £4.5m new signing, Nick Barmby, is one he will relish, with Graham Stuart the most likely player to stand aside.

"We needed special demands for the Southampton game when Craig Short made way so that we could bring Tony Grant into midfield and we might need special demands for the derby," said Royle, who has seen injury worries over Barmby and Joe Parkinson clear while John Ebbrell is also pressing for a recall after returning to fitness.

"I won't be afraid to make changes if I feel I need to, but I certainly won't be saying what the side will be."

The game was scheduled for Sunday, 20 October and both clubs will be hoping that the cold

snap that has gripped the country does not put paid to the fixture for a second time.

Liverpool's progress in the European Cup-Winners' Cup and Coca-Cola Cup has already led to a congested fixture list at this relatively early stage of the season, while Everton will broadcast the game live on a giant screen at Goodison where it is hoped a crowd of 6,000 will watch the action.

Leeds have urged their troubled Swedish striker, Tomas Brodin, to return to Yorkshire and have tests on his damaged ankle to clarify the extent of the injury.

Brodin was due to join Sampdoria on loan with a view to a permanent transfer earlier this month, but that deal collapsed when the Serie A club's doctors ruled him unfit.

They claimed the player had not properly recovered from the effects of a broken ankle, sustained a year before joining Leeds, arguing the screws inserted in his foot would impair his play.

Now Leeds, fearing Brodin might be forced to retire, want him to seek a second opinion from a leading orthopaedic surgeon. The club's director and solicitor, Peter McCormick, said: "The player has now appointed a FIFA-registered agent in London. I have sent a lengthy communication to him requesting that Brodin returns to this country to be examined by a leading orthopaedic surgeon."

"Once that examination has been carried out and the results are known, Leeds will be in a position to consider the various legal options before taking the next step."

Liverpool's Everton, Anfield, tonight, from: James, McKeever, Barmby, Babb, Wright, Ruddock, Houston, Barnes, McCormick, Redknapp, Thomas, Foster, Bergin, Collymore, Warner, Kennedy.

Everton (from): Southall, Gerrard, Barmby, Venechillo, Short, Wozniak, Uroic, Grant, Kanchelskii, Parkinson, Barmby, Grant, Ferguson, Stuart, Blanch, Lampard.



Steffi Graf, the world's No 1 tennis player (left), presents a bouquet of roses to her old rival Gabriela Sabatini, who retired from the game last month, at a ceremony during the season-ending finale, the Chase Championship, in New York yesterday. Photograph: Osamu Honda/AP

Venables takes Australian job

Terry Venables accepted two jobs in one day yesterday when he announced that, in addition to taking over as Australian national coach, he would also become chairman of Portsmouth.

The former England coach was at his Kensington club, Scribes West, at lunchtime to explain that the lure of the next World Cup had persuaded him to take Soccer Australia's £200,000-a-year offer.

"What interested me was the chance to be involved in international football again," Venables said. "I had two-and-a-half years with England, and really enjoyed it, and although I don't regret the decision I made there was a sense of frustration after Euro 96."

"I would have liked to finish the job I'd started properly and go to the World Cup. Now

there's the possibility of that happening."

Venables added that he had accepted the Australian job - running for 19 months starting on 1 January - despite more lucrative approaches, presumably from club sides both in England and on the continent.

The new post will see him criss-crossing the continent to keep an eye on Australian players such as Mark Bosnich, Steve Corica and Ned Zelic who are playing in Europe, while enabling him to enjoy his first love of working with players in the training ground.

"I've had very big offers, much bigger than this, and it wasn't just the money situation, although I know it's a vast amount for a country like Australia," he said. "This is a big challenge, and a big reward if I

can do it as well. Some people might say it's barmy, but I haven't started yet and my real concern is making sure that I do what I feel is right."

"I feel I've got a better group of players than most people think. And you've got to remember that before Euro 96 most people were saying that English players weren't good enough."

Venables then revealed that he would be moving from the director of football role into the shoes of old friend Jim Gregory at Fratton Park.

"It was a possibility before that I would do that and Martin Gregory (Portsmouth's managing director) is for it, but it won't take away what I'm doing with Australia because from the beginning of the season I've only been there to give direc-

tion," he said. "It's been working quite well. I'll still help him as much as I can but getting onto the training ground has been difficult."

Pressed on whether he would really be able to spread his favours so wide, when he expects to spend "around 40 per cent" of his time down under, Venables was emphatic.

"How many chairmen go to the club every day?" he asked. "I haven't been to every game so far, but there's a good shape to the club and I'm there to help all parts of the club from the experience I have."

For Dave Hill, the Soccer Australia chief, the catch of attracting Venables to the Socceroos' cause, and find a way of boosting crowds from a paltry average of 7,000, was clear. "We were determined to

have the best possible man Australia could muster, the best coach and the best leadership for the squad, and Terry is the best result we could've hoped for," Hill said.

Venables will fly out to Sydney next month, to begin planning his side's World Cup campaign. Those plans start with the Four Nations Cup in January, involving New Zealand, Norway and South Korea, with Venables watching his charges for the first time in Melbourne - probably against the Kiwis - on 18 January.

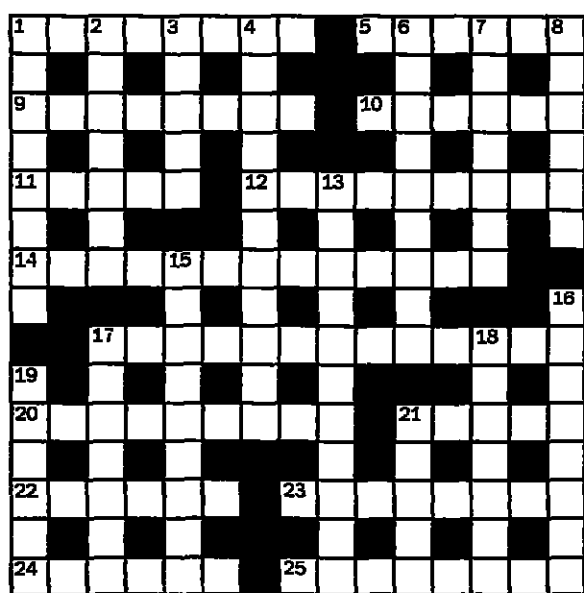
Australia begin their France 98 qualifying games in June, with six matches in a month against the likes of Tahiti and Fiji before - if successful - a two-legged November play-off against the fourth side in Asia. Australian viewpoint, page 3.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3149, Wednesday 20 November

By Aquilla

Tuesday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- This reptile is around - in places! (8)
 - Not anchored, these days, at Split? (6)
 - For example, good and bad Roman general takes woman's title... (8)
 - ... to establish one male attitude (8)
 - Composer spilling beer after waltz begins (3)
 - Stool very rickety in Jamaica Inn, for example (4-5)
 - More than liberal, too compliant! (13)
 - Bond follows her, say, with official declaration (13)
 - Body of water in Europe. (One in Asia is an alternative) (6,3)
 - Obscure WW II force go back (5)
 - Double-edged club used by epic finalists (6)
 - Crown left in ship's tender (8)
 - Like wood that is wet after midnight! (6)
 - Judges of sho-Jonkeys, from the sound of them (8)
- DOWN**
- Useless person still joins club (8)
 - Celebrity on new diet (7)
 - A king supports boy with position-finding device (5)
 - Tuneless loud noise - MU gets upset (11)
 - Crazy over a picture in ornamental sword (9)
 - Settle to clear up? (4,3)
 - Restricted, you once had to colour textiles unevenly (3-3)
 - Changing to universal organ-pieces in church (11)
 - Detachment in quarantine (9)
 - Disease of horse astonishes people (8)
 - Fabulous girl left with hope-chest? (7)
 - Fruits in personal belongings (7)
 - One with family in Dad's Army on walking holiday (6)
 - Being drunk, go on spree (5)

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Wenger in talks over £10m Weah deal

ALAN NIXON

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, flew to Turin on Sunday to watch George Weah play for Milan. Wenger had talks with Weah's advisers afterwards in an attempt to tempt the Liberian striker as soon as possible.

Wenger is hoping that his long friendship with Weah will prove decisive as he moves to bring him to Highbury in a £10m deal. Weah has told Milan that he would like to move at the end of this season to try his luck in England or America. Milan have lined up Ajax's Patrick

Kluivert as Weah's replacement.

Wenger, who was manager over Weah at Monaco, is determined to bring that timing forward, ideally to around Christmas. The Frenchman will report back to the Highbury hierarchy with the figures for the deal, both now and at the end of the season.

Milan would want a large fee for Weah to leave immediately as they do not have a replacement for him in their bid for the Champions' League. Kluivert is already cup-tied. Wenger has also been linked with the Juventus full-back Moreno Torricelli, who plays against

Manchester United in the Champions' League tonight.

One striker who is happy where he is, Aston Villa's Savo Milosevic who yesterday made a dramatic plea to be allowed to stay at Villa Park. The Yugoslav international insisted he would not be going to Perugia even if the two clubs agreed a deal and said he wanted to play for his manager, Brian Little, again.

Milosevic could return to action in Saturday's Midlands derby at Coventry City if his proposed £4.5m move collapses. Little is still optimistic of completing the transaction which would enhance his

chances of signing Liverpool's £7m-rated Stan Collymore. But Milosevic might solve a short-term problem for Little as his leading scorer Dwight Yorke will be unavailable on Saturday while away on World Cup duty with Trinidad and Tobago.

Another tiff could be settled at Middlesbrough after the manager, Bryan Robson, announced that the Brazilian Emerson will be staying with the club. Robson emerged from talks with the midfielder player at the Riverside Stadium to make the six word statement all Middlesbrough fans wanted to hear: "Emo is staying at the club."

Robson has promised to try

to make life as comfortable as possible for Emerson's homesick girlfriend Andrea, by providing her with a permanent interpreter.

Internazionale yesterday played down speculation linking their British coach R. Hodgson with a move to Blackburn. The Italian club's vice-president Gianmaria Visconti said they had received no approach and that the time was not right for any club to ask permission to speak to Hodgson. Peterborough yesterday picked company with the assistant manager, Lil Fucillo, and first team coach, Mick Hale, as an economy measure.



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